BRITAIN'S BESTSELLING HOMES MAGAZINE

Ideal Home

BIG NEW LOOK ISSUE!
180 PAGES FULL OF INSPIRATION & EXPERT ADVICE

729 Amazing new ideas

- DECORATE WITH CONFIDENCE
- GENIUS STORAGE HACKS
- SIDE RETURN EXTENSIONS
- HOW TO COSY UP YOUR HOME

NEW COLUMNIST
Fearne Cotton's happy home

Instant revamps

EASY STYLE UPDATES FOR EVERY ROOM

+Inspiring real homes

HOUSES, RENO PROJECTS & ROOM MAKEOVERS

LIFE ADMIN

- SWITCH ON TO SMART HEATING
- MANAGE MONEY LIKE A PRO
- SET A CLEANING ROUTINE
- HOW TO SELL STUFF ONLINE

VISIT…

Karndean
Designflooring

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'We've had a makeover...

In the same way lockdown made us all reassess what we want from our homes, here at *Ideal Home* we realised we needed to adapt our pages to make sure we're delivering exactly what you want (and need) from Britain's best-selling homes magazine in 2021. The creative process has been much like renovating a house: lots (and lots!) of planning, a rollercoaster ride of ups and downs, but ultimately, hugely rewarding in the end.

We went through each one of our pages, asking a lot of the same questions you might ask when redesigning a room. Does it work hard enough? Is a quick lick of paint all it needs, or are there some structural issues to address? How can you add character but make sure that the changes will stand the test of time? Reworking *Ideal Home* hasn't just been about filling in the cracks. We've given the whole magazine a thorough revamp to bring out its best features, and we hope you love our new look as much as we do.

> "Refreshing Ideal Home has been very much like the process of renovating a house"

This has been a real team effort, and we've welcomed some exciting new faces into the mix. *Ideal Home* (est 1920) was one of the first magazines to bring the advice of leading industry experts into readers' homes, and we've celebrated that long tradition with our IH Panel. Charlie Luxton shares his know-how on renovation (p131), Kalpana Fitzpatrick is here to help us keep our finances in order (p155) and Nicky Phillips is our go-to for decorating dilemmas. Our homes have recently become a place of sanctuary, so Fearne Cotton's on hand for a dose of wellbeing in her monthly Happy Home column (p159). Plus, one of our favourite writers, Hadley Freeman, is keeping us entertained on page 17.

Now it's time to throw open the doors for the grand tour. Welcome to our new *Ideal Home*...

Heather

HEATHER YOUNG, EDITOR

THE IH PANEL

HADLEY FREEMAN
JOURNALIST & AUTHOR
A *Guardian* columnist and features writer, Hadley has also penned four books. She's about to move house – a new project!

NICKY PHILLIPS
DECORATING EDITOR
Nicky brings over 25 years' experience to the table, and has been part of the *Ideal Home* family for 21 years.

CHARLIE LUXTON
ARCHITECTURAL DESIGNER
Charlie juggles his roles as director of Charlie Luxton Design, TV presenter and public speaker.

KALPANA FITZPATRICK
MONEY EXPERT
An award-winning financial journalist, Kalpana is a regular guest on TV and radio, and editor of themoneyedit.com.

FEARNE COTTON
BROADCASTER & AUTHOR
TV and radio presenter Fearne's *Happy Place* podcast is now in its ninth series, with over 40 million downloads.

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Switch up the mood with our dining room lighting ideas

From everyday mealtimes to entertaining, we've got expert lighting tips and advice to bring to the table

Staircase ideas – looks for your hallway to create a stylish stairway

In most homes, the staircase is the first thing you see when you walk through the front door and as the saying goes, 'You never get a second chance at a first impression'. Our staircase ideas will help you make the right impression, first time

> "This month, we're getting our cosy on, and readying our homes for hibernation season"
>
> **HEATHER YOUNG,** EDITOR

Ideal Home Approved: buying guides & reviews

Holding out for Black Friday to make a big purchase? From vacuums to sofas, get the lowdown on our best-rated buys

How to bleed a radiator

If you've noticed your radiators aren't heating up as they should be, they probably need bleeding. Follow our step-by-step guide...

'Best upholstery cleaners – 5 top buys to add to your cleaning cupboard

We've rounded up our faves for keeping your sofa, rugs, curtains (and more!) looking fresh

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INSPIRE | INFORM | DISCOVER

Diamonds rug in natural wool on Jet Black, £899, Cosy Coco

NEED TO KNOW

Design your own rug for a one-of-a-kind look

It may be THE rug of the moment, but the Berber has been around for centuries, originating in Morocco and the surrounding areas of Northern Africa. With plenty of high street options, Cosy Coco founder Noemie Deed wanted to produce the real deal but with a customised twist. Choose from 10 base patterns in a mix of classic and contemporary styles, with 10 top colours in 11 sizes, with or without tassels. The wool rugs are handwoven using traditional methods by Berbers in the Atlas Mountains.

IH LOVES...

Statement mirrors

Gold Fleur mirror, £100, John Lewis & Partners

What to do this month...

WATCH If you've missed this gem, get ready to binge watch *Dream Home Makeover*. Interior Designer Shea McGee brings her signature farmhouse chic style to projects for some serious big budget makeover bliss. Netflix, Series 1 and 2.

DO New to the virtual learning platform, Create Academy, is Kate Watson-Smyth, the interiors guru behind Mad About The House blog, books and Instagram. Her online course brings her practical advice to life. Visit Createacademy.com.

LISTEN Podcast *How To Fail* with author and journalist Elizabeth Day, features conversations with celebs, authors and everyday people with extraordinary stories. The guests delve into the things that haven't gone right but led them on a new path to success.

READ Take a moment to relax and get lost in the pages of *Calm* by Sally Denning. The interior stylist tells us how to master the art of a tranquil home. £25, Ryland Peters & Small.

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Saule wallpanel, £185.74 per panel (W100x280cm drop), Casadeco at House Decor Interiors

COLLAB ALERT

ZANDRA RHODES X IKEA

The limited edition collection, Karismatisk, designed with the doyenne of print and pattern, features Zandra's brilliantly bold, expressive style. The collection uses recycled materials where possible and features ethically handmade rugs. Karismatisk throw, £35, Ikea

AHEAD OF THE CURVE

Raw timber grain

Adding a whole new dimension to 'bringing the outdoors in', the super-sized Saule mural takes us up close and personal with the wonders of wood, celebrating its grainy lines and gnarly knots. The appreciation for this natural beauty doesn't end there either, with Etsy reporting searches for burl wood or burr wood (as we call it in the UK) are on the rise while Gumtree names it as one of their trends to watch. Ugly on the outside, but beautiful on the inside, thanks to highly patterned grain, it creates a naturally decorative finish for furniture. Artisans Ash & Plumb and Grain & Knot bring the beauty of wood grain to life by handcrafting sculptural vases and accessories, while the teak range at Raft and So'home at La Redoute show off the organic form of wood in all its glory.

THE HERO PIECE

FRENCH FANCY

Taking a step up from a retro rattan weave or boho bamboo, French cane is the smarter way to dip into the trend for these woven wonders. The Giselle chair, £249 at Dunelm, pairs a mango wood frame with the elegant backrest for a chic twist. Available from December.

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Ribbed coffee table (The Big Guy), £199; design cushion, £19, both Henry Holland at Freemans

SURPRISE IN STORE

'Designer Henry Holland has made the move to homeware. There's arty meets '70s prints and vases with curvy attitude... we're obsessed!

WE'RE FOLLOWING

@goldisaneutral

YOUR BEST DECORATING DECISION? Painting our bathroom black, including the ceiling! My decorators (and my mum) thought I was mad but it makes the room look so much bigger. The large mirror helps to bounce around the light so it never feels claustrophobic.

YOUR SECRET STYLING IDEA? Use a mix of textures when you're putting a room together. If you have lots of shiny marble and brass, incorporate some earthy elements like a wooden bowl or a linen cushion and don't forget plants or foliage!

FAVOURITE CORNER OF YOUR HOME? It's the L-shaped olive green velvet banquette in our kitchen. It was one of the things I was determined to work in from the very early design stages. It's a statement, but it's also the heart of our kitchen.

AN ITEM THAT SPARKS JOY I'm totally smitten with a painting we have by Andrea of Borneo Studios. It was nerve-racking as I'd never commissioned anything but Andrea was great.

FEATURE MICHELA COLLING

SPOTLIGHT ON

'Haines Collection

Jules Haines is on a mission to reduce waste in the interiors industry. Haines Collection sells small batches of fabric seconds and offcuts that could otherwise end up in landfill, meaning you can get hold of fabrics and wallpapers from luxury brands at a fraction of the original price. Perfect for small projects like making blinds or re-covering chairs, there's trimmings and cushions along with lampshade workshops, giving a new life to small remnants.

'Word on the high street...

SANDERSON & NEXT HAVE TEAMED UP TO BRING FIVE OF SANDERSON'S MUCH LOVED PRINTS TO READY-MADE CUSHIONS, CURTAINS, ARTWORK & LAMPSHADES AT NEXT.

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wren KITCHENS

“Which towel rack truly reflects my soul?”

HOW HADLEY FREEMAN’S RELATIONSHIP WITH HER HOME HAS CHANGED WITH AGE

I can chart my life by the things I spent money on. In my twenties, all my spare cash went on clothes and going out. A Luella skirt here, a Marc by Marc Jacobs top there, it was amazing (or not) how quickly my monthly pay cheque disappeared. But because I loved fashion and derived so much pleasure from it that still today, even with the benefit of two decades of hindsight, I don’t see any of that expenditure as waste. I see it as me finding myself as an adult through the therapeutic medium of Net-a-Porter.

Then in my thirties, my money went on holidays. I became the queen of organising trips with friends: booking villas, finding where the beach parties were going to be, and then making all of my friends come to them with me. I still loved fashion, don’t get me wrong, but memories last even longer than Miu Miu, as Jesus said (or maybe it was Lindsay Lohan).

Then around my 40th birthday, the focus changed again and I became obsessed with home décor. It was strange: my husband and I had lived in our house for three years, and I was fine with the all-white walls, the ramshackle plastic-y furniture, the heavy dark-wood floors which were there when we moved in. Yeah sure, whatever, who cares?

Well, it turned out I cared. Very much. Suddenly, living in a house that not only didn’t reflect me but actively depressed me was as unbearable as wearing clothes in the wrong size, or going on a cycling holiday (ultimate contradiction in terms.) And so, despite having three-year-old twins and another baby coming, I set out on a massive revamp of my house. Well! This will probably not come as a massive surprise to readers of *Ideal Home*, but I cannot convey how much the changes lifted my mood. A home that is beautiful! And me! Do other people understand the importance of this? (Yes, cry a million readers of *Ideal Home*.) Well, here comes the comedy twist in the tale: we’re moving. Again. I’m delighted. The problem with doing up your home is that at a certain point it’s done, and you can revel in the beauty, but the activity is over. Now I’m back to looking at websites and asking myself ‘Which towel rack truly reflects my soul?’ Ahh, bliss. ■

> “Living in a house that didn’t reflect me was as unbearable as wearing clothes in the wrong size”

JOURNALIST HADLEY FREEMAN WRITES FOR THE GUARDIAN AND IS THE AUTHOR OF FOUR BOOKS

High street heroes

THE DESIGN EDIT

Now and then, the high street comes up with something so utterly fabulous, it looks as if it's come from a designer boutique. Here are some of our latest discoveries that will make your home look expensive without the big spend...

WHERE TO BUY **1** Ceramica 06 print, from £31, Woven **2** Pebble mirror in Gold, £45, Dunelm **3** Linen cushion cover, £29.99, Mango Home **4** Black stoneware bowl, £12, George Home **5** Rust and Caramel terracotta vase, £35, Rose & Grey **6** Table lamp, £119.99, Zara Home **7** Retro footstool in Ochre, £30, B&M

FEATURE MICHELA COLLING

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Rebel Walls R17421 Graham & Brown 113936 & 13954 Isabelle Boxall 185709
Paint: Farrow & Ball Scotch Blue Earthborn Nutkin

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real homes

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“Start from scratch or **BREATHE** new life into old: these homes have **CREATIVITY** and an eye for style in common”

HEATHER YOUNG, EDITOR

PHOTOGRAPHS ELSA YOUNG/BUREAUX

FAMILY HOUSE

MODERN living

TUOMAS AND ANNA MÄKELÄ PROVE THAT MINIMALIST DESIGN CAN SUIT FAMILY LIFE, WITH WELL CONSIDERED STORAGE RIGHT FROM THE START

UNDERSTAIRS STORAGE
Sloping doors make use of the space under the bespoke staircase. The glass panel ensures it is child-safe, yet still holds onto a modern aesthetic

Dining area

A table made from Ikea trestle legs and a Hay top is at the hub of the open-plan space. 'Aida often draws or crafts at the table when Anna and I relax on the sofa,' says Tuomas.

BUY THE KEY PIECES
Try Wishbone chair, £129, by Kallevig. Loop Stand table, £679, Finnish Design Shop, is similar. Notti frosted glass globe pendant light, £35, Lampsy, is an alternative

"Our home **SERVES** our lifestyle perfectly – as a **FAMILY** we spend a lot of **TIME TOGETHER** downstairs, but the bedrooms provide a peaceful getaway"

TUOMAS MÄKELÄ, HOMEOWNER

HOME NOTES

WHO LIVES HERE?

Anna Ritakallio-Mäkelä, and her husband Tuomas Mäkelä, live here with their daughter Aida. Tuomas is creative director of Bo group, which he co-founded with Anna.

THE PROPERTY

A three-bedroom, two-storey apartment within the mid-1800s Crichton building by the river Aura in Turku, Western Finland.

THE LAYOUT

A hallway with ample storage leads to an open-plan living room, kitchen and dining area, with double doors to a home office/guest bedroom. The main and Aida's bedroom are on the first floor with a storage room, which will eventually become a guest bedroom. Each level has a bathroom.

By creating a three-bedroom apartment within a beautiful old riverside building, Tuomas and Anna have proved that city living and family life are not incompatible.

WHY DID YOU BUY THE PROPERTY?

'It used to be my mother and stepfather's home, but the building was in need of major repairs,' says Tuomas. 'The property overlooks the river and was built in 1847 for a Scottish engineer and ship-owner called Crichton, who hosted many visiting dignitaries and presidents at his home over the years.

'We decided to create an apartment for ourselves, plus four others to sell, along with premises for our real estate company, Bo group. The project took two years and we lived in a tiny one-bedroom flat in the same building as we'd sold our previous loft apartment nearby.

WHAT WAS YOUR VISION FOR THE APARTMENT?

'We wanted to pay respect to the period, architecture and form of the building, as well as focusing on local expertise. We chose timeless, high-quality materials, such as wood and Carrara marble. There's a sense of continuity and flow throughout.

'Our kitchen and all the internal doors were tailored according to our design with seamless floor-to-ceiling cabinets without a plinth, like our previous home. Sloping doors make use of the space under the staircase and there are floor-to-ceiling cupboards in the living room and home office, as well, giving us plenty of storage throughout the apartment. The rear yard was also rebuilt to create a terrace with planted areas and modern lighting, all in the same style as the apartment.

HOW DOES IT FEEL LIVING HERE?

'Moving from a modestly sized temporary space into our 168sq m new home felt incredible. Decorating has taken a while, because we needed a lot of new furniture and we prefer to invest in quality pieces that stand the test of time, rather than go to a large home store and fill up the place all in one go.

'Living in the centre suits our lifestyle. We have lovely views over the River Aura and we can take Aida for a coffee and doughnut on the spur of the moment or have a picnic on a jetty. There are plenty of playgrounds nearby and many of our friends live in the area. We love being able to walk to a restaurant in the evening, and having our workplace in the same building as our home feels like a real luxury.

'Although the overhaul turned out to be much more extensive than we expected, everything has been revamped down to the bones of the house. There's no need to think of any upcoming work in the next decades.'

Kitchen

Designed by the couple and made by Finnish company Kitzen, the matt white cabinets blend into the walls. 'The open space allows for togetherness even when we're not all cooking.'

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Similar kitchen, Handleless in Super White Matt, from £5,338, Wren Kitchens. Try Marble Veneto Zenith laminate worktops, from £385, Worktop Express

ALL-WHITE KITCHEN

This is a fail-safe option that allows for easy accessory updates in an open-plan scheme. It works well with wood, greenery and black accents for a natural look, or go bold with bright colour pops

Kitchen

Brass handles and a brass tap add warmth, while a generous Carrara marble splashback and worktops elevate the simple scheme to something more luxe.

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Furnas boiling water tap in Brushed Gold, £519, Fohen, is similar. Try Vellamo Terra Black granite composite sink, £199.99, Tap Warehouse. Cozy Living White marble tray, £37.95, Trouva, has this style

MARBLE

Adds subtle pattern to a white space

BLACK OVEN

The under counter oven on the island works well for baking with daughter Aida, as she can check on her cakes easily through the glass. The black sink and hob continue the monochrome look, so feel part of the overall scheme

> The apartment has been **DESIGNED** so that it can be converted and **ADAPTED TO SUIT** different life stages

Staircase

The herringbone flooring has been used vertically to create a feature wall, leaving a 75mm expansion gap around the perimeter. Cork tiles or oak-slat panels would also work well in a contemporary minimalist scheme.

Hallway

'All the solid wood doors were made by a carpenter according to our designs, including brass hinges and handles.'

BUY THE KEY PIECES

DCW Editions Lampe Gras 214 wall light, £369, Inspyer Lighting. Ton 30 chair, £452, Finnish Design Shop. Vitra Eames House Bird, £138.66, Connox

Living room

'Our style is Scandinavian minimalism, spiced with richer and more surprising details including the odd vintage piece.'

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Adea Baron sofa, £5,165, Design & That, is similar. Leather Saxe chair, £1,635, By Lassen at Amara. Neo tan leather dining chair, £319, Heal's, is a good match. Play coffee table, £92.80, Royal Design, has this look. Try Rug Vista for a comparable rug

> "We wanted as much **STORAGE** as possible, but in such a way that the cabinets blended in **NATURALLY**"

FRAME A WINDOW

Handleless cupboards create a seamless look with additional storage above and below, as well as providing a window seat. The shadow gaps give a slick feel

RUG

The pattern grounds a pared-back space

FOCUS ON
CLEVER STORAGE

Take inspiration from Tuomas and Anna's minimalist home and find a smart way to hide away clutter

BUILT-IN BOOKCASES
If you're having new walls erected, take the opportunity to incorporate space-saving niche shelves sunk into them. This will negate the need for more furniture and keep the space feeling uncluttered.

UNDERSTAIRS SPACE
For most this area is a dumping ground, but with built-in cabinetry, it could be used as a pantry, a spot for the washing machine, a bar or even a home office.

MAKE IT MULTI-FUNCTIONAL Ottoman beds, window seats and coffee tables with sliding tops can all double up as extra storage spots.

BUDGET SHELVING
Utilitarian metal racking systems, normally used in a garage or workshop, can look stylish in an industrial-look scheme. Alternatively try Ikea's Vittsjo shelf unit, which you can personalise with spray paint and adhesive vinyl.

Hallway
Despite the step up and sloping ceiling in this space, the couple have managed to incorporate tall storage for coats and low storage with a ledge to sit on and take off shoes. The burgundy front door adds a dash of colour to the otherwise neutral home.

BUY THE KEY PIECES
Gold watering can, £55, Rose & Grey, is similar

Office
An extra deep Carrara windowsill doubles as a desk so the couple can work from home. A sofa bed (not seen) enables the space to be used as a guest bedroom when closed off. 'The rug really adds warmth here. It was a gift from my mother,' says Tuomas.

BUY THE KEY PIECES
Wishbone chair, £129, by Kallevig, is a budget alternative

Bathroom

Off the hallway is a bathroom with sauna on the ground floor where it's easy to go outside to cool off. The herringbone pattern of the floorboards is repeated in the tiling for continuity.

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Fusion Matt Black porcelain chevron tiles, £80.88sq m, Mandarin Stone, have this look

Bathroom

A wall-hung vanity unit was chosen for the shower room, as being able to see more floor gives the illusion of space. LED lighting around the mirrored cabinet provides a flattering light for putting on make up.

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Nero bathroom vanity unit in matte Black, £895, Aquaroc, is similar. Try Elena stainless steel mirror cabinet, £169.99, Bathroom Mountain

Try the replica Eames lounge chair, £549, Satonia

Main bedroom

'We love the sloping roof in this room. We also like that there's ample room for both of us to store clothes and belongings.'

BUY THE KEY PIECES

French linen king-size duvet cover in Light Grey, £120, Soak & Sleep, is similar. Mudcloth cushion cover, £45, Rose & Fallow at Etsy, would work here

> 'In the morning light FLOODS IN from the large skylight, yet it's ATMOSPHERIC at dusk'

LINEN BEDDING

With breathability, anti-static and moisture-absorbing qualities, linen is the ideal bedding fabric for a good night's sleep. It's also durable and suitable for those with allergies or sensitive skin

MOVEABLE FURNITURE
A bed on castors makes it easy to create extra space for playing or sleepovers. Maisons du Monde's Rebel bed with built-in drawers is another option for older children

Aida's bedroom

'We wanted to make sure Aida had plenty of room to play, so there are full-length cabinets along one wall for toy storage.'

BUY THE KEY PIECES
VidaXL mango wood bed frame, £176.99, ManoMano, is similar. Trapezoid desk lamp with adjustable arm, £152.06, Litfad, is a close match. Miffy First Light lamp, £65, Kidly

FAMILY MUST-HAVES

INSPIRED BY ANNA & TUOMAS' HOME

EASY TIDYING
Le Sac En Papier Brun, £12, Design Vintage

FLEXIBLE DESIGN
Ethnicraft round tray coffee table, from £269 set of two, Olson & Baker

KID AND PET-PROOF
Bakerloo 3-seater in Drift Charcoal, £1,099, Sofology

EASY CLEAN
Washable Air Savannah rug, £168, Lorena Canals at Fy!

FEATURE JONNA KIVILAHTI, KAREN WILSON **PHOTOGRAPHS** KRISTA KELTANEN
PLANS RICHARD HOOKWAY

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| BEFORE & AFTER HOUSE |

WRECK to wow!

IMPRESSIVE DESIGN FEATURES AND OPEN-PLAN LIVING WERE TOP OF THE BRIEF FOR PUTRI AND BEN MACKERETH'S SELF-BUILD FAMILY HOME

HOME NOTES

WHO LIVES HERE?

Putri Mackereth, an interior designer, lives here with her husband Ben, founder of Mac Building Solutions, and their children Bodhi, five, and twins Freddy and Jack, two.

THE PROPERTY

A five-bedroom detached self-build in Streatham, south London, completed in 2020.

THE VALUE

Bought in 2019 for £875,000. Build cost, around £900,000. Current value, £2,100,000.

Kitchen/living area

'The kitchen really is the heart of the home. I spend a lot of time here and the open plan allows me to keep an eye on the kids. It's also a great space for entertaining,' says Putri.

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Connaught ceiling light, from £389, Dowsing & Reynolds. Eclair sofa in Tumble Waxed Nutmeg, £3,495, Sofa Workshop. Coffee table, Made. Cushions, H&M Home

Putri and Ben are serial renovators. It started after they moved from New Zealand nearly 12 years ago, with the renovation of a small flat in Clapham, south London. Since arriving in the UK they have both set up companies: Ben's building firm, Mac Building Solutions (@mac_building), and Putri's interior design consultancy, Mae House Design (maehousedesign.com). Combining their skills, this dream team have completed 11 of their own renovations and more than 100 for clients. In 2019 they were ready for the next challenge: their first self-build.

Ben began trawling online portals looking for the perfect plot and found a dated house in Streatham, south London, on around 700 square metres of land in a conservation area. 'Our architect David Bell from AtelierDB explained to us that it would be difficult to get planning permission for the contemporary property we envisaged,' says Putri. 'He suggested that we incorporate architectural characteristics and forms like those found within the conservation area. The tile hanging at first floor level and the gable roof are examples of this and really helped us create a house that was sympathetic to its surroundings.'

NOT THE BEST TIMING

'We demolished the existing house in February 2020, just before the global pandemic hit,' says Putri. 'We were very lucky that the construction industry was still able to operate, otherwise we would have been left with an empty site.'

THE PLANNING CHALLENGE

'The build itself was relatively straightforward and quick, but securing planning permission did prove to be a big challenge for us,' adds Ben. 'It took a pre-application meeting, three planning applications and many variations of conditions to get to the design we were happy with.'

ECO CREDENTIALS

Interestingly, with new builds, it's essential to incorporate eco-efficiency measures wherever possible. In addition to double glazing and EcoTherm insulation for thermal efficiency, Putri and Ben installed an air source heat pump, so no gas is required at the property. This powers the wet underfloor heating throughout the entire house. They also had to pass an air pressure test to ensure the house was well sealed, minimising heat loss.

> "Starting with a **BLANK CANVAS** and building it ourselves allowed us to make our home **EXACTLY** how we wanted it"

RACE TO THE DEADLINE

'Sometimes starting from a blank canvas is easier than refurbishing and self-building allowed us to make our family home exactly how we wanted it,' says Ben. Putri agrees but remembers the hectic final push: 'After spending lockdown in a small flat with three young children, we set ourselves an ambitious target of having Christmas dinner in the new house. With this self-imposed deadline, we gave notice on our rental property and moved in with the final building works still going on around us. Being on site makes you realise just how much work goes into the finishing touches. We never gave our builders enough credit for how long things take!'

Kitchen pantry

'I really liked the idea of having a walk-in pantry, but the space didn't allow for it. Instead our kitchen has fold-away doors to a larder cupboard. Opened right up it gives easy access to everything,' Putri explains.

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Leicht concrete finish kitchen, Elan Kitchens. Portobello ceiling lights, £114.99 each, Dowsing & Reynolds. Road House bar stools, £159 each, Where Saints Go

CEILING LIGHTS

Flush-fitted lights give targeted illumination for working in the kitchen, while the lights above the breakfast bar are more intimate and atmospheric

INSET CEILING
A recessed ceiling in wood adds warmth and texture to soften the scheme and also delineates the seating area in this open-plan space

Kitchen–diner

Putri and Ben had wanted polished concrete flooring, but they decided that porcelain would be more robust and easy to maintain, so they opted for large-format terrazzo-style tiles throughout the ground floor.

BUY THE KEY PIECES
Hendrix Grey porcelain tiles, 1m sq, £82.80sq m, Mandarin Stone. Dar Academy five-light bar ceiling pendant, £225, Online Lighting

> “This house will be easy to **ADAPT** as the kids grow, so will work well into the **FUTURE**”

THE BUILD IN PICTURES

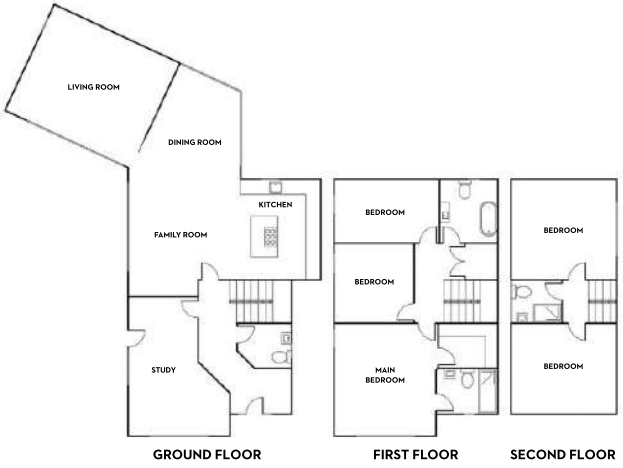
The property was bought in summer 2019 and planning permission was applied for in summer/autumn

Demolition began mid-February 2020. The house was pulled down in a week and all the waste was separated so as much as possible could be recycled or reused.

Basement excavations started in February. All foundations were laid by end of May, then the groundworks contractors handed over the site.

Ben moved his experienced build team on to the site to start erecting the steels at the beginning of June.

With the steels in place, timber structures went up, including the roof, floors and walls.



THE LAYOUT

'By sticking largely to the footprint of the existing house, we were more likely to be granted planning permission. We extended the ground floor to move the garden south-west, maximising sunlight to the living areas. The kitchen is centrally positioned in the open-plan ground floor, which is ideal for keeping eyes on the kids; an office is at the front. The bedrooms and bathrooms are on first and second floors. The basement provided space for a gym and sauna, but could be turned into a cinema room or bedroom.'

Family area

A dedicated area was created for Bodhi as she loves arts and crafts. In the evening, it is neatly hidden behind the sliding door, which looks like a black panelled wall.

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Panelling painted in Lamp Black, from £48.50 for 2.5ltr, Little Greene. For a similar poster, try Zazzle

Barbecue area

'The outdoor barbecue space is where Ben spends most of his time,' says Putri. 'We both loved the existing rustic brick wall, so decided to retain it but added cedar cladding at the top to give it a tidier look and create some privacy with our neighbours.'

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Skogsta dining table, £399, Ikea. Wire dining chairs, £139 each, Where Saints Go. Charcoal barbecue, Big Green Egg

SLIDING DOOR
The sliding panel hides Bodhi's desk area when not in use and echoes the aesthetic of the industrial-style bifold doors

LEATHER
For warmth and variety in a living space

THE BUILD IN PICTURES

With all the timber structures in place the bricklayers continued to build up from the ground floor.

In November, the ground floor metal windows were the last to be installed, then decorating could be completed.

The family moved into their self-build property in December 2020.

THE LOWDOWN

WORST PART

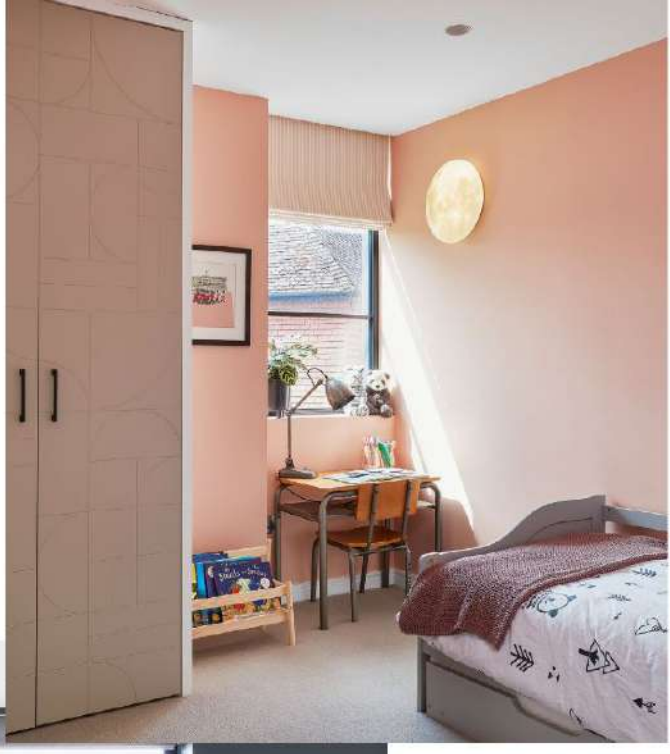
'The planning process was frustrating and drawn out because we were in a conservation area. We learned to make one person the main point of contact and persevere.'

BEST DECISION

'Installing bifold doors created a living area with a great indoor/outdoor flow – it's ideal for entertaining in the summer.'

FAVOURITE SPACE

'Our bedroom and en suite. It's a nice space to unwind at the end of the day and hide away from the kids.'



MARBLE
Charcoal veining adds pattern to the space

Bohdi's bedroom

The couple wanted fitted joinery that didn't cost a fortune, so they opted for the Ikea Pax system and paired it with etch-patterned doors, which was both cost-effective and easy to do.

BUY THE KEY PIECES
Walls painted in Shrimp Pink, from £48.50 for 2.5ltr, Little Greene. Wardrobe doors in Grannie Pink, £312, Superfront

Main bedroom en suite

'With three young children, Ben and I don't get away as much as we used to,' says Putri. 'So we created this luxurious en suite complete with a large freestanding bath as a space to unwind after a busy day.'

BUY THE KEY PIECES
Ellipse bath, £2,495, Waters Baths of Ashbourne. Stratford double sink vanity unit in Black with Carrara marble, £1,695, Lusso. Norse Blush ceramic wall tiles, £46.40sq m; Arena porcelain marble-effect tiles (on floor), £70.80sq m, both Mandarin Stone

“We wanted to create the look and feel of a LUXURY hotel room, for a calming RETREAT”
BLACK & PINK
The combination of black with a soft blush hue makes for an elegant space that is both contemporary and timeless

Main bedroom

A coffered ceiling with LED strip lighting was added as a point of difference in this space. The soft lighting works well in the bedroom and gives the impression of increased ceiling height.

BUY THE KEY PIECES
Coffered ceiling lined with walnut wood panels, The Wood Veneer Hub

METAL LINES
The black window frames are echoed in the chair legs and ceiling lights to create a cohesive scheme

FOCUS ON
STEEL-FRAMED WINDOWS

Putri and Ben love the look of metal framed doors and windows and opted for this style throughout their new home. These features can create an industrial look, historic authenticity or a contemporary edge

THE BENEFITS

Metal-framed glazing is an elegant option that suits properties of many styles and will look great for years to come. It can be a much slimmer and more attractive alternative to uPVC windows. Fitting metal in place of wood also avoids the maintenance requirements of timber.

STYLE OPTIONS

The glass panels are available in a range of formats. They can be square in shape, or horizontal or vertical rectangles, with various dimensions on offer. Consider more contemporary options that team expansive panes of glass with super-slim metal frames which maximise light and views. There's also an enormous choice of frame colours for metal windows, ranging from classic black, through greys to standout shades such as orange, red or green. Your supplier might also be able to colour-match to a shade of your choice.

ENERGY EFFICIENT

Modern steel windows are made with energy efficiency in mind. Benefits include thermal breaks (aka thermal barriers) in the frames. These prevent heat being conducted outside by the metal, which could create condensation and make rooms cold. They will also stop the frames indoors from feeling cold in winter or hot in summer, both of which can affect a room's ambient temperature. Modern glazing also has energy-efficient properties.

FEATURE JO DYSON **PHOTOGRAPHS** CHRIS SNOOK
STYLING PUTRI MACKERETH **PLANS** RICHARD HOOKWAY

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“WE WENT BIG ON texture”

EMMA JACKSON’S FAMILY HOME NAILS THE REFINED INDUSTRIAL GLAM LOOK. EMMA SHARES HER STYLE SECRETS...

FLOORING
Lay planks in the direction of the light, drawing the eye to the garden. Engineered oak works well with underfloor heating.

HOME NOTES

WHO LIVES HERE?
Emma Jackson, a full-time mum, lives here with her husband Dan, a banker, and their children Isla, nine, and Tessa, seven.

THE PROPERTY
A four-bedroom double-fronted Victorian link-detached house in Dulwich, South London.

"The full-height glazing opens it up"

'My vision was for a huge open-plan space with Crittall doors and skylights. I grew up in Australia so I'm used to big lateral spaces. When we found this double-fronted house in Dulwich, it had more scope for extension than a typical Victorian terrace. By knocking through a warren of dark rooms, incorporating the footprint of the rear terrace and extending into the side return, there was no need to eat into the 170ft garden either.'

BUY THE KEY PIECES
The Natural Wood Floor Co has similar engineered oak, from around £58.33sq m. Hartwell industrial oak reclaimed bar chair, £219, Oak World, has this look

BRASS PENDANT

Pick a style that will transition from daytime to evening. The hammered texture is a nod to the industrial look while the brass finish adds a glam edge for entertaining.

> “I’VE LEARNED to check myself and think – is this WHAT I WANT or am I following a trend?”

2 "Bold wallpaper makes it"

'By extending into a little-used terrace, we've created a new dining area with a skylight. As the open space is quite utilitarian, I wanted the dining room to have colour and drama for dinner parties. The wallpaper speaks for itself so we've consciously not added anything else to the wall. Dan's grandmother's sideboard is a precious piece and I love the print of book spines featuring Bob Dylan songs, which was a birthday present from my brother.'

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Cole & Son Palm Jungle wallpaper, £115 a roll, Jane Clayton & Company. Try the Cohen pendant light, from £119, Heal's. Salisbury dining table, £899, Barker and Stonehouse, has this style. Try personalised book spines print, from £11.99, Find Me A Gift

3 "Exposed brickwork adds texture"

'As the house is higher at the front, there were lots of different levels before. Now we have two big steps down from the entrance hall to an open-plan kitchen-diner, living room and playroom on one level. We re-used the existing brick to create the exposed wall, which looks amazing and helps to zone the space. Our big corner sofa, where the long galley kitchen and part of the terrace used to be, is an amazing spot to watch a film with the girls.'

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Andes three-piece corner sofa, from £3,597, West Elm. Calia coffee table, £299, John Lewis & Partners. Filskov rug, £55, Ikea, is similar. Try Palm leaf I cushion, £29, I am Fy!

4 "Personal touches are key"

'The back room is open plan, so we wanted a little shelving area to house a few personal items. We painted it in Farrow & Ball's Downpipe to match the exposed steels and kitchen cabinets. As it's inset, it doesn't interrupt the flow but gives you a little something to look at. Most importantly I needed somewhere for my cuckoo clock!'

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Geometric terrarium, £21.99, Moonkind, is similar. Seiko wooden cuckoo clock, £69.99, Rubicon Watches, has this style

> “White WALLS are great for BALANCING areas with bold COLOUR and PATTERNS”

5 “Brass brings age & warmth”

‘We went for brass for the tap and tile trim as it gives the kitchen an aged look. We have touches of brass in each room, including the hallway and front room, so that’s our highlight colour on the ground floor. It also ties in well with the old school science stools that Dan found on eBay.’

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Aged brass Ionian tap, £520, DeVOL. 600 Ceramic sink, £454.29, Perrin & Rowe

6 “Quality materials are long lasting”

‘Elegant and stylish, marble takes a scheme to a new level wherever you use it. The detail in these herringbone wall tiles in cool, grey-veined white marble, draws your eye towards the stone’s dappled colours, and the honed finish is cool, contemporary and unique. As well as its undeniably chic attributes, it’s also a hard-wearing, dense and durable stone that has real longevity.’

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Try the Real Shaker kitchen, from £12,000, DeVOL. Shelter Island Harbour View marble tiles, £134.55sq m, Fired Earth. Silestone Lyra Quartz worktop, from £565sq m, The Marble Store

7 “I love mid-century modern shapes”

‘We wanted the woodburner to have a mid-century vibe to go with the rest of the décor. The flush hexagonal tiled hearth is for practical purposes – with children a raised design could be a trip hazard – and it also makes sure not to interrupt the flow of the open-plan space. Dan gave me the sign as a birthday present. It has special meaning as this is where we gave our notice of marriage and the children’s births were registered.’

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Skantherm Shaker stove, from £2,394, Stoves Online. Try Bistro Grey hexagon tiles, £63.96sq m, Topps Tiles. Allo plant pots, £99 set of two, Made, would work here. Besta wall-mounted cabinets, from £40, Ikea

PLANTS

Soften and break up the hard industrial materials. Arrange at different heights for a natural, layered feel.

"Our rope wall lets light in"

'Being in the middle of the open-plan space, the playroom had to look good. I saw the rope divider on Pinterest and thought it looked really cool. Storage was designed by Emily Seymour-Taylor, assistant director of TAS Architects (tasarchitects.co.uk), who designed the house while I project managed the build by New Smart Living.'

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Try the Casco pendant lampholder, £23, Iconic Lights. For similar plywood cupboards, try Uncommon Projects

FUNKY STORAGE

Plywood cupboards, which incorporate a desk, look stylish in an open-plan space and can conceal all the children's toys. The wipe clean plywood surfaces are super-practical.

9 "Maximalism mixes really well with Victorian"

'The rest of the house is very neutral, but I also love an eclectic, maximalist look, so I went for it when decorating the front room. It felt right here, as it still has all its period features and the Victorian era lends itself well to that style. I particularly love the Art Deco-style drinks trolley which complements the side table and luxurious curved loveseat.'

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Dixie loveseat, from £1,295, Loaf. Blue Heron print, £99; similar Joss marble side table, £125, both Graham & Green. Gold & Marble round bar cart, £199.95, Melody Maison, is comparable

10 "The mirror makes a statement"

'On the ground floor, the two front reception rooms on either side of the hall were retained as a separate sitting room and office. Although we didn't feel guilty about ripping out the pink '70s bathroom, we wanted to save the original ceiling rose and cornicing in here. I bought the bronze mirror over a decade ago, which works well against the dark walls. I don't think I'll ever replace it as it brings me joy to look at it.'

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Walls painted in Downpipe estate emulsion, £49.50 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. Try 90cm antique gold metal petal design wall mirror, £79, La Redoute

> "A **MIX OF MATERIALS**, including steel, brick and rope, zones areas for **PLAYING, RELAXING** and eating"

CHEVRON TILES
A quirky zig-zag edge adds wow factor and echoes the sharp lines of the square basin and hexagon mirrors.

STEP IN TIME
Zuiver marble wall clock in White, £69, Cuckooland

LUXE METAL
Eldorado pendant light, £143, Maisons du Monde

BOTANICAL ACCENT
Faux potted rubber plant, £45, Cox & Cox

STYLE MUST HAVES

GET INSPIRATION FROM EMMA & DAN'S ECLECTIC STYLE

WARM GLOW
Black arc floor lamp, £219, Barker and Stonehouse

ISLAND VIBE
Bali palm leaf cushion, £29, Cult Furniture

BUTTON DETAIL
Velvet Navy Blue loveseat, £625, Oliver Bonas

11 "Blue and white is moody but crisp"

'As the bathroom flows directly from the dressing room and bedroom, I wanted to continue the mid-century theme. The dressing table was from eBay but the legs were too short, so it sat in the loft of our previous home. We later removed the legs, added a white Corian worktop and basins.'

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Walls painted in Hague Blue estate emulsion, £49.50 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. Hexagon mirror, £25, Oliver Bonas, is a match. Equipe chevron tiles, £19.99 for 0.5sq m, Tiles Direct, are similar

FEATURE KAREN WILSON **PHOTOGRAPHS** BILLY BOLTON/LIVING INSIDE

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Dining room

'I sent a tiny corner of an early Paris map to my daughter Mia in LA and asked her to source something similar,' says Theresa. 'She found a set of the same map printed on 25 paper tiles for just $25, which was carefully fitted together and framed to make up this large, eye-catching artwork.'

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Try Monuments of Paris map mural, £28sq m, Photowall. Bloomingville black metal lantern with gold handle, £35, Amara, is similar

MASTERED elegance

EMPTY NESTERS THERESA AND ALLAN WIDLAKE DOWNSIZED TO A NEW BUILD WHERE THEY COULD START FROM SCRATCH WITH COLOUR, FORM AND TEXTURE

WOW MOMENT
Panelling on a chimney breast is a wonderful way to add texture and character, particularly in a new build

Living room

'Our perspex coffee table is the one item that's moved seamlessly from house to house and works in every space,' says Theresa. 'As it's transparent you can encase your current choice of objects inside.'

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Coffee table, clear, £155.99, VidaXL, is an alternative. Artwork by Ken Gibson. For similar, try A Still Life of Flowers in a Wanli Vase, 60x80cm canvas, £94, I am fy! Black bird decoration, £94.54, Ibride

HOME NOTES

WHO LIVES HERE?
Theresa Widlake lives here with her husband Allan. The couple are the founders and owners of an interior and product design firm.

THE PROPERTY
A three-bed three-storey new build house in Johannesburg, South Africa.

With their daughters Mia and Tiffany having grown up and left home, Theresa and Allan Widlake wanted to create a relaxing yet stylish space for just the two of them. 'It was our first opportunity to reinvent ourselves after leaving behind the homes in which we'd raised our children,' says Theresa. 'We had children young, living in modest rented or company-owned housing, so I learned to make the best of what I had, re-using pieces and decorating on a budget.'

After selling their ranch-style home in rural North Zambia in 2007, the pair found a three-storey home in Johannesburg's leafy northern suburb. With a 300sq m footprint, which includes the garage, the house isn't large. However, the couple made changes to make it feel bigger. 'It felt more like a multi-level apartment than a sprawling suburban house,' says Theresa. 'We love high-ceilinged rooms so we asked the developer to raise the ceilings, which has made it feel more spacious.'

The garage forms what is effectively a basement, with the ground level including a living room, dining area, kitchen and scullery, as well as a small gym and informal TV lounge. On the floor above are three bedrooms, one of which is Theresa's ›

WOW MOMENT
As a transitional space, the hallway is a great place to experiment with something bolder. Try wallpaper that looks like tin panels.

Hallway

'I've always been attracted to botanical prints of all kinds,' says Theresa. 'This group of exotic creatures is from an old calendar, decoupaged onto small canvases during a fun weekend of crafting.'

BUY THE KEY PIECES
Andrew Martin Penny Post wallpaper, £48 a roll, Fashion Wallpaper. Kuriosis has antique animal prints from £17. Pols oak console table, £429, Tikamoon, would work here

Dining room

The dining room leads out onto a small garden. 'We've gone for a mix of textures with tubular metal and leather chairs from our own interiors business, combined with wicker server chairs and a wooden dining table,' says Theresa.

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Try industrial Grey and Brown upholstered dining chairs, £239.99 for a set of two, Homary. Kingsley large oak dining table, £1,100, Sofa.com, is similar

WOW MOMENT
Bespoke murals can be ordered to achieve a similar effect to Theresa's map. Or, frame a grid of six or nine maps, each with special meaning.

> "When DECORATING my home, I always choose pieces that make a STRONG and CONFIDENT statement"

Kitchen

Clean-lined white cabinetry with black accents is softened by natural wood. 'The sailing ship artwork was created from a sketch I found in an old book, which was enlarged and printed on canvas,' says Theresa.

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Hudson bar stool in raw oak, £149, ManoMano, is similar. Otoro large glass pendant, £180, Nkuku, would work. Try antique sailing ship poster (A1 size), £52, Kuriosis

> "Your **HOME** should reflect who you are, and simultaneously **CALM**, **INSPIRE** and **UPLIFT** you"

office and sewing room, three bathrooms and a recently created home-working area for Allan.

With just a sliver of garden, the couple had to get creative with the outside space. 'Following a visit to our children's friends in Los Angeles, who have a similar space, we surrounded it with dense viburnum hedging,' says Theresa. 'This has created a delightful, room-like outdoor living area with green walls where we can relax.'

Finding the right furnishings and paint colours was a long and considered process. 'Every home is different and this one really stumped me for a while as it lacked character,' says Theresa. 'Nothing from our previous home worked. I had a vision of a gorgeous, neutral, soothing home which ended up looking bland and one-dimensional with new furniture and zero personality.'

Luckily their friend Lynn Grant, owner of Johannesburg decor store Take It For Granted, helped them out. 'Lynn jokingly told me it was all too neat and new, and that we needed some dirt!' says Theresa. 'She was quite right. As soon as I ›

TV lounge

Rather than one large coffee table, three inter-connecting tables offer more flexibility and can be used wherever needed. Floor-to-ceiling shutters allow light levels to be modulated for watching TV.

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Emmeline Olive Green velvet armchair, £499, Atkin & Thyme, is similar. Model 02 linen three-seater sofa in Shadow, £1,295, Swyft, would work. Frederick nest coffee table, £1,122, The Luxe Home, has this style

WOW MOMENT

Introducing greenery at different heights can transform a room, especially a neutral scheme. Fiddle leaf figs, rubber plants and paradise palms are ideal for corners.

Main bedroom

'My favourite room is my bedroom,' says Theresa. 'It's a space where I can greet the new day, relax, read, and imagine my next sewing project. The Claire Denarié-Soffietti artwork is a favourite.'

BUY THE KEY PIECES

For a similar wall colour, try Wooster Olive, £42 for 2.5ltr, Abigail Ahern. Raffia lamp by Meraki Studio, £164.49, Trouva, has this look. Try Peppercorn linen double duvet cover, £125.10, Secret Linen Store

WOW MOMENT
A high headboard is a great way to make a statement – update it with fresh fabric when you redecorate

Main bedroom

'My bedroom is ever changing and my daughter Mia helped me with its current iteration,' says Theresa. 'The headboard is frequently re-covered. It's currently draped with fabric I purchased to make a skirt, and still might!'

BUY THE KEY PIECES
Try RV Astley Amur wide bedside table in Ceramic Grey, £563, House of Isabella. For a similar upholstered headboard, try Vintage Chinoiserie fabric in Midnight, £35m, Just Fabrics

> "My style is **ECLECTIC** and constantly evolving. As I grow older I'm loving **COLOUR** and using it more"

began combining older treasures with newer contemporary pieces, the interiors started to acquire personality and come together. Sometimes just moving stuff around gets a good result too.'

Advice also came from their interior designer daughter Mia, who they co-founded their business with (studio19.co). Many quirky items in the house, from raffia lamps to leather clad coffee tables, are from their own collection.

One of the most striking aspects of the design is the choice of paint colours. 'In my view, the colours are prescribed by the house rather than imposed by its occupants,' says Theresa. As pure white didn't work, neutrals were chosen that range from creamy beige through to warm brown-greys and dark aubergines. 'These shades work beautifully with the bright Johannesburg light conditions,' she says. 'The bedrooms feature more tranquil colours, while the dining room and kitchen are painted in chalky creams and beiges. I've also repainted and reupholstered the living room armchairs to suit the scheme. Now I enjoy a space that is both stimulating and calming, and that feels relaxed and unpretentious.' ■

FEATURE ROBYN ALEXANDER/KAREN WILSON
PHOTOGRAPHS ELSA YOUNG/BUREAUX

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HAVING SPENT A HAPPY SUMMER SIFTING THROUGH ENTRIES, WE CAN FINALLY REVEAL OUR WINNERS. WE'VE BEEN INSPIRED AND DELIGHTED BY THE QUALITY OF THE WINNING PROJECTS, EACH OF WHICH WILL APPEAR IN FULL IN *IDEAL HOME* IN 2022

BEST HOME

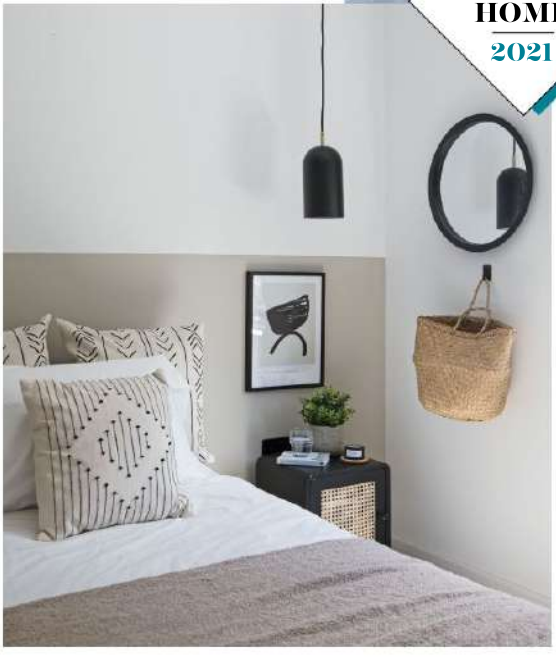
WINNER

JOANNA FLETCHER

Joanna built a contemporary version of the 1950s bungalow that had originally stood on this site, overlooking a beautiful Lancashire valley. Using burnt black larch and huge glazing panels to enhance the views, Joanna designed every inch of the interior, while husband Sam oversaw the exterior. The Fletchers love industrial/Scandi style and have thoughtfully combined these themes throughout their home to stunning effect.

> "Smart solutions helped us reduce costs and still achieve everything we'd dreamt of for the perfect home"

Ideal Home BEST HOME 2021



BEST GARDEN

WINNER

EMMA RENGASAMY

Through the brambles and weeds of their one acre North East Essex garden, Emma and husband Rick have realised its full potential, creating a unique and vibrant outdoor haven. Different zones show off double borders full of flowing prairie planting, a bee border bursting with spring colour, a serene driftwood garden, and many tranquil spots for simply sitting and taking it all in.

> “We saw a large blank canvas, that through our enjoyment of gardening, we could transform ourselves into a tranquil space”

Ideal Home BEST GARDEN 2021

Ideal Home
BEST ROOM MAKEOVER
2021

BEST ROOM MAKEOVER

WINNER

TANYA KIRBY

Created by knocking through several small rooms in their 1950s-built house, the Kirby family's new and extended 10x6.5m space is now home to an elegant open-plan kitchen, and spacious dining and living areas. Using a mix of raw materials – wood and exposed brick – against modern, matt grey units, the look is streamlined, practical and perfectly suited to a busy modern family.

> "My passion is interior design, so this has been a dream come true for me"

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decorating

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> "It seems like **DESIGN** alchemy, but there's a **FORMULA** behind the perfect room **SCHEME** and you can master it"
>
> **HEATHER YOUNG,** EDITOR

PHOTOGRAPH FUTURECONTENTHUB.COM

WALLPAPER
Cantonese Garden, £175 for three 52x300cm rolls, Mind The Gap

PAINT
Hicks' Blue absolute matt emulsion, £48.50 for 2.5ltr, Little Greene

FABRIC
Zardozi in Charcoal, £75m, Designers Guild

Update classic dark panelling with small-scale patterned wallpaper.

Theodora **wallpaper** in Ravenna, £56m, Holland & Sherry. Débourgeoisée **console** in Black, £1,372, Desjeux Delaye at Ligne Roset. **Lamp**, £35, Rocket St George. Contrepoids **candlesticks**, £395 each, Alexander Lamont at Miles de Lange. **Candles**, £16 for six, Curious Egg. **Paperweight**, £50, Amara

REFINED glamour

TRENDS COME AND GO, BUT HERE'S HOW TO GIVE THIS LOOK TIMELESS APPEAL

Walls in New Black; stripe in Rufus, both architect's matt, £53.50 for 2.5ltr, Paint and Paper Library. **Curtain** in Zardozi in Charcoal, £75m, Designers Guild. Clay **table**, £5,845, Desalto at Heal's. Series 430 **chairs**, £799 each, Verner Panton at Aram Store. Art Deco Curio **shelves**, £2,695, IJ&L Brown. Design Project **planter**, £55, John Lewis & Partners. **Print**, £395, 55Max. Newport **decanter**, £198, Jonathon Adler. Theo **vases**, from £25.30 each, Broste Copenhagen. **Whisky glasses**, £6 each, Curious Egg. Greta **cake stand**, £25, Habitat

BOLD MOVE

An indulgent palette of black and gold, teamed with a striking curtain in the same colourway, creates a sophisticated feel.

STYLE DIRECTION

"Break up a solid dark wall with a stripe of contrasting rust or gold to add a contemporary twist"

NICKY PHILLIPS, DECORATING EDITOR

Cantonese Garden **wallpaper**, £175 for three 52x300cm rolls, Mind The Gap. Below dado in Hicks' Blue absolute matt **emulsion**, £48.50 for 2.5ltr, Little Greene. **Woodwork** in Down Pipe estate eggshell, £67 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. Jonesy **sofa** in Praline Clever Velvet, £2,225, Loaf. **Cushions**, from left, Lost & Found, £176.50, Christopher Farr Cloth. Oblong in Saffron Spot linen, £140m, Louisa Loakes. Vista by Ferm Living, £69, Heal's. **Tapestry**, £100, Tori Murphy. Rodan **coffee table**, £1,135, Pinch. Ombre **tumblers** in Amber/Blue, £19 each; woven leather **bowl**, £350, all The Conran Shop. Form **bowl** in Brass, £185 set of five, Tom Dixon. Hayden **floor lamp**, £289, Heal's. Cara steel **side table**, £295, Rose & Grey. Stone **vase**, £140; Splatter **vase**, £99, both The Conran Shop. Scallop flatwoven **rug** in Ocean, £1,598, Jennifer Manners

STYLE DIRECTION

"Combine prints and colours on cushions to build up the rich palette. Finish with touches of jet black and brass for drama"

NICKY PHILLIPS, DECORATING EDITOR

CHOOSE PATTERN

A statement floral wallpaper with deep-blue hues creates a bold backdrop for a sofa upholstered in a plush russet-brown velvet.

Rodan **coffee table** in Black Stained Ash, £1,135, Pinch. Large woven leather **bowl** in Whisky, £350, Ombre. **Tumblers** in Amber and Blue, £19 each; Medium Rock **bowl** in Moody Blue, £145, all The Conran Shop. Form **bowl** in Brass, £185 set of five, Tom Dixon. Brass **tipping measure**, £18, Ferm Living at Rose & Grey. In background, Large Jonesy **sofa** in Praline Clever Velvet, £2,225, Loaf

HIGH-END FINISHES

Brass, woven leather and gleaming glass in jewel colours of amber and sapphire bring a touch of opulence to the everyday.

PICK A PATTERN

When decorating large rooms, such as a living room or dining room, always look to add a pattern to the scheme, whether on curtains, cushions or walls. Geometric prints are a great starting point for a sophisticated look, or try large-scale florals in dramatic hues.

CONSIDER FINISHES

Touchable, textured surfaces such as velvet and silk, leather and dark wood, will all add a layer of opulence to a space. Finishes that reflect the light – think luxe touches of warm gold and brass – can't fail to add a splash of sophistication, too.

HIGHLIGHT ARCHITECTURE

It's great to highlight period features by painting them in a matching shade, but if you aren't lucky enough to have them, then fake it. Make your own batten panelling, or substitute missing picture and dado rails by painting stripes in their place.

INVEST IN CLASSICS

A statement lamp or a bespoke coffee table can be the sort of high-ticket piece that will see you through decades of decorating change-of-hearts. Choose simple shapes and high-quality materials in classic forms and colours, and watch them last you a lifetime.

Walls in Oval Room Blue modern emulsion, £53 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. Sturado **desk** in Teal, £299, Dwell. Byron **dining chair** in Caramel leather, £599 for a pair; Ombre **table lamp** in Warm Beige, £243, both Heal's. Phi brass **scissors**, £25, Hay. **Wireless charger** in Juggler finish, £75, The Conran Shop. On window ledge, Lali The Blues portfolio **box**, £62, Dar Leone. **Postcards** on wall, 85p each, Tate Modern Shop

GO HIGH GLOSS

Surfaces that reflect the light will give a sleek look to a simple home office, while an elegant table lamp adds sculptural beauty.

FEATURE NICKY PHILLIPS **STYLING** LORRAINE DAWKINS
PHOTOGRAPHS MARK SCOTT

STYLE DIRECTION

> “Balance a hallway by painting walls and woodwork in warm, cocooning colours, then team them with a pale patterned floor and a white painted bench to create contrast and reflect light”

NICKY PHILLIPS,
DECORATING EDITOR

THINK ORGANIC

Loosen the continuous straight lines found in hallways with a fluid-shaped gilt-edged mirror.

Wall in Medina pure flat emulsion, £51 for 2.5ltr, Paint and Paper Library. Below dado in Down Pipe estate **emulsion**, £49.50 for 2.5ltr; **woodwork** in estate eggshell, £67 for 2.5ltr, both Farrow & Ball. Fine Edge **mirror** in Organic Gold, £479, Heal’s. Corso **bench**, £585, Ercol. Tapestry **cushion**, £100, Tori Murphy. Oblong **cushion** in Saffron Spot linen, £140m, Louisa Loakes. **Throw** in Japura Indigo, £155.50m, Christopher Farr Cloth. Roma Beige terrazzo **tiles**, £168sq m, Otto Tiles & Design

| IH COLOUR CLUB |

Teal & emerald

THE DESIGN KNOW-HOW BEHIND THIS TOP COLOUR COMBO, TO HELP YOU WORK IT LIKE A PRO

TEAL BASE

As the largest area and therefore the highest percentage of colour coverage, the teal will take the lead as your dominant colour. Sitting between blue and green on the spectrum, teal has the strength and quietness of both shades, making it feel calming and restorative – ideal for spaces where you want to unwind and relax.

PAINT COLOUR
Clockwise from top: Inchyra Blue estate emulsion, £49.50 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball; New Brick durable matt, £35.15 for 2.5ltr, Ideal Home at Albany; Dark Brunswick Green absolute matt emulsion, £48.50 for 2.5ltr, Little Greene

CORAL ACCENTS

A warm shade like coral will counteract the coolness of teal and bring out its warmer side. What's clever in this room is the way coral hasn't been used in a matchy matchy way. Instead it's picked out using different prints so that each adds a further layer to the design. Use touches of coral in three different areas to create a triangle that brings a sense of balance to the space.

FEATURE NICKY PHILIPPS AND HEATHER YOUNG
PHOTOGRAPHS FELICITY CROMBIE/IHCOM

Style tip

Carry the same shade across the dado rail for a contemporary, immersive approach to colour

BLACK FINISHING TOUCHES

Keep this look elegant and grown-up with touches of black. Dark wood sofa legs and a black curtain rail make sure the room looks smart and tailored. These near-black details ground the scheme and offer a pleasing end-note to the rich colours on display.

TONAL GREEN

When balancing your scheme, the next percentage of colour in the room should be one that sits near to your main shade (the teal on walls) on the colour wheel. This is the trick to combining colours in a way that looks interior-designed. Here, the emerald green sofa adds depth and interest without jarring or being too shouty. Repeat the same green on a footstool covered in a mid-scale print to draw the eye to the centre of the room, then pull the scheme together with green on a smaller scale print on curtains. This decorating technique feels sophisticated and design-savvy.

> “Stick to a maximum of three main colours, then have fun combining tints, tones and pattern in those shades, to stop the room looking too colour busy”

NICKY PHILLIPS,
DECORATING EDITOR

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| EASY STYLE UPDATES |

Weekend decorator

CLEVER TRICKS AND MINI DECOR PROJECTS... WE ROUND UP THE SIMPLEST, QUICKEST WAYS TO MAKE YOUR HOME MORE BEAUTIFUL NOW

1 HOW TO

ADD INTEREST WITH PANELLING

An ideal way to introduce an architectural feature to an otherwise plain room, panelling can provide additional insulation and even hide radiators.

- Choose the style of panelling that would most suit your space and decide whether you want to cover the whole wall or just part of it.
- Using a spirit level and pencil, draw out your panel pattern on the wall, so you know exactly where to attach each section.
- To achieve this Jacobean-style panelling, cut boards of MDF into 4in wide strips and attach to the wall in a grid, using strong adhesive.
- Add beading to the inner edges of your panelling, before sanding, priming and painting.

Walls in Black Heron premium blend for walls and ceilings, £31 for 2.5ltr, Valspar. Morten armchair £649; Clifton side table, £259, both Heal's

2 LAYER WARM NEUTRALS FOR A CALM AND COSY SPACE

Greys or whites can sometimes feel a little cold, but choosing milky, truffle-pink shades will make any space beautifully warm and soft. A calm pinky-grey on the walls works perfectly in homes both old and new, and furniture in a neutral plush velvet adds a touch of restful decadence.

Walls in Velvet Truffle 3 matt emulsion, £30.04 for 2.5ltr, Dulux. Hampstead four-seat sofa in Velvet Mink, £3,329, Heal's

COLOUR CHEAT SHEET

Peignoir estate emulsion, £49.50 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball

Pink 01 eggshell, £38 for 2.5ltr, Lick

Pressed Petal simply refresh one coat matt emulsion, £32 for 2.5ltr, Dulux

3 Swap over artwork, prints and photos from one room to another to change up the feel of the space regularly.

4 TRANSFORM A BLANK SPACE INTO A GALLERY WALL

Whether you're hanging treasured family photos, holiday landscape snaps or quotes, a gallery wall creates a focal point in your room with plenty of wow factor. For a unified look, choose frames of the same colour and width, but play with size to create a layout that's fun and frivolous.

Herbivore gallery wall set, £348.15, Desenio

Indi three-drawer chest, £349, Dunelm

5 HOW TO GIVE WOODEN DRAWERS A NEW LOOK WITH CANE

Turn an old, unloved piece of furniture into something more contemporary with just an afternoon's work.

- Take a chest of drawers and start by giving the whole unit a good rub down with sandpaper to remove any scuffs or bits of old varnish.
- If your drawers have panels that are easy to pop out, carefully remove them using a chisel and hammer and sand any rough edges.
- Cut pieces of cane webbing (available in ready-woven sheets or rolls) slightly larger than the panels, then use a staple gun to attach the cane to the back of the openings. Make sure the cane is secured tightly without any gaps.
- Alternatively, cut strips of cane and attach to the front of your drawers with a strong adhesive, then frame the webbing with slim wooden batten to create a smart edge.
- To protect the wood, use a matt varnish to seal the surface, then finish your upcycling project by adding contemporary brass or pretty glass knobs.

6 CHOOSE FLOATING WALL UNITS TO CREATE THE ILLUSION OF SPACE

Storage is key for any home, but if it's too big and bulky it can make a room feel small and become a clutter magnet. Use wall-hung cabinets rather than floor-standing and the visible space beneath will make the room feel larger. Combine closed and open designs so everyday items can be hidden from view while favourite vases, books and trinkets can be kept on display for a tidy, clutter-free scheme.

Eket wall mounted shelving units, from £20 each; Eket wall mounted cabinets, from £30 each, Ikea

1 HOUR

8 ADD LIGHTING TO A DISPLAY CABINET

Make a real feature of your favourite glasses, vases or collection of trinkets by adding spotlights above, attaching them to the underside of shelving or alcoves. These Ikea Vaxmyra Black LEDs, £9 for two, emit a lovely soft glow, and can be added retrospectively with double-sided tape then simply plugged into the mains.

7 Adopt the rule of three with accent colours: a simple cushion, a splash of colour in a rug and statement lamp, all in the same shade.

9 HOW TO MAKE ARTWORK

Oversized artwork can be pricey, so create your own unique piece instead with just a wooden board and some standout wallpaper.

- Work out what size you want your artwork to be. If hanging over a bed, measure the width of the headboard and come in about 30cm each side.
- Cut a piece of MDF to size (most timber merchants or DIY stores will do this for you free of charge).
- Sand the edges smooth then cover with wallpaper, fixed with adhesive spray. You may have to butt two drops up next to each other. Continue the paper over the edges and onto the back for a neat edge.
- Frame with a wooden moulding painted in metallic gold paint.

Orbit Black velvet double bed, £499.99, Furniture and Choice

STYLE TIP

Add touches of gold to your scheme with pieces of occasional furniture and accessories to match the frame of your artwork

WALLPAPERS TO WOW

1 Baroque Light by Uta Naumann, £35sq m, Wallsauce 2 Secret Garden Pearl wallpaper, £89 a roll, Abigail Edwards 3 Arthouse Highgrove floral Teal wallpaper, £13 a roll, Wilko

Talia spindle-back dining chairs, £160 for two; Denver dining table, £320; Denver bench, £150; Biwa seagrass shade, £45; clear bubble vase, £14, all Habitat

STYLE TIP

Paint the shelf and the wall above in the same shade, and use a complementing colour or even wallpaper for the wall below

10 HANG A FLOATING SHELF

A stylish storage space and super-easy to put up yourself, floating shelves look a lot more streamlined and take up less space than shelves that require visible brackets or support. Ideal in a kitchen or dining space, use them to keep your everyday crockery and glasses to hand and easy to grab when it's time to lay the table for a meal.

Rubin case study kitchen, from £30,000, Life Kitchens

11 MAKE A DISPLAY OF COOK BOOKS

Turn the end of a kitchen island, or side of kitchen cupboards, into a space to store and display your cook books. Attach a couple of slim picture ledges to house your books, or if you have built-in shelves, fix a wooden batten or metal rod above each one and pop your books behind them.

Terracotta Gammon cement encaustic tiles, £152.40sq m, Otto Tiles

Saigon Blue patterned tiles, £44.40sq m, Porcelain Superstore

12 HOW TO TILE YOUR STAIR RISERS

Your staircase is probably the first thing you see when you walk in the front door, so give it an update with statement floor tiles that will make you smile, as well as impress guests.

- If your stairs are currently carpeted, carefully pull this up, and get rid of any underlay, nails or staples. Give the treads a couple of coats of hard-wearing floor paint and leave to dry.
- If you're using the tiles that match the flooring in your hallway, think about whether you want to continue the pattern in the same direction for a cohesive look, or change it up for a statement.
- Using a tile adhesive and spacers, fix your tiles in place and ensure they are completely dry before walking on them. Fill in between the tiles with grout in a complementary shade, then wipe tiles clean and leave to dry.

13 Replace kitchen textiles, such as tea towels and oven gloves, for an inexpensive and quick room refresh.

FEATURE HOLLY WALSH **PHOTOGRAPHS** FUTURECONTENTHUB.COM

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| HOW TO ADD WOW |

Power pendant

IDEAL HOME'S DECORATING EDITOR NICKY PHILLIPS EXPLAINS WHY BIG IS MOST DEFINITELY BEAUTIFUL

Style tip

To add interest to a room that lacks architectural features, go for full-length curtains with a large-scale pattern

PHOTOGRAPHS FUTURECONTENT.COM

"Lighting is by far one of the easiest ways to really add impact to a room and an oversized pendant or chandelier will instantly pack a punch."

Perfect over a dining table or kitchen island, the pendant should be hung at a height that ensures guests don't have to dodge a bump to the head every time you host a dinner party, but instead creates a cosy and atmospheric setting to eat, drink and maybe get a little merry. Depending on the ceiling height, aim for your pendant to be about 80cm from the tabletop, and use a soft, dimmable bulb so you can play with light levels at different times of the year. In smaller spaces, you can still embrace a large-scale design, but choose one with an open framework, such as cane, rattan or wire, rather than a solid style that might block natural light or a view out of the window.

For a similar pendant, try Espen oversized pendant in Black, £495, Cox & Cox. Curtains in Ishana, £164m, Jim Thompson Fabrics. Note dining table in triple fumed oak, £7, 200, Edward Collison at The New Craftsmen. Fragments rug in Taupe, £1,680, Sinclair Till

STATEMENT PIECE
Choose a pendant that will cast warm shadows to enhance the snug feel. Pebble pendant, £1,499, Original BTC

| PLAN THE PERFECT |

Cosy living space

AS WE EMBRACE AUTUMN, MAKE YOUR LIVING ROOM THE COMFIEST SPACE IN YOUR HOME WITH A FEW CHANGES, BIG AND SMALL. WE ASKED THE EXPERTS TO SHARE THEIR INSIDER TIPS

GO DARK
'Choose dark colours to make a room feel intimate,' says Ruth. Wall painted in Sage Green absolute matt emulsion, £48.50 for 2.5ltr, Little Greene

MEET THE EXPERTS

SALLY DENNING
INTERIORS STYLIST, CREATIVE DIRECTOR AND AUTHOR
'I love a room that feels cosy; it's when I feel most at home in a space.'

RUTH MOTTERSHEAD
CREATIVE DIRECTOR, LITTLE GREENE
'I go for strong colours to create cosy spaces – and living rooms are made for pattern.'

DECLAN KINGSLEY-WALSH
MANAGING DIRECTOR, MORSØ UK
'Whether your living room is big or small, a wood-burning stove always makes it cosy.'

It's time to retreat indoors and get cosy by the fire, ready for the home hibernation season. There are so many factors that need to work together for a warm, enveloping living room. We asked an interiors stylist, a stove expert and a paint and wallpaper specialist just what makes a cosy living space.

USE COLOURS TO COCOON

'Colours can stimulate and excite, but they can also make us feel relaxed, so decorate with the colours you love, choosing warmer tones to create a scheme that feels enveloping and rich. When it comes to cosy colours, I love muted hues that have a "lived-in" quality, desaturated with black, grey or a complementary colour. Warming green, terracotta and blush also work well,' says Sally.

Ruth loves using strong colours. 'Dark shades work really well to harness the character of a living room by creating warmth and intimacy,' she says, adding, 'As we are spending more time at home, we are seeking out colours and patterns that create atmosphere, either by injecting joy and energy into an interior or creating a calm, cosy and cocooning sanctuary.'

Wallpaper is another good option. 'Papering all four walls is a simple way to create an impactful design change that brings a sense of comfort and warmth to a space,' says Sally. 'And don't forget the ceiling and woodwork; choose a complementary colour from the wallpaper design rather than traditional white.'

HIGHLIGHT THE FIREPLACE

'Try rearranging your furniture so it embraces the fireplace, making the room more sociable and less focused on the TV,' says Sally. 'Style up the fireplace with vases, family memories and seasonal foliage.'

'Glass panels on contemporary stoves are bigger and wider compared with traditional designs, so you can really enjoy the beauty of a log fire,' says Declan. 'Stoves can be placed almost anywhere in a room, as long as the requirements are met and there's a flue.'

Ruth loves a burst of wallpaper. 'Wallpapering the chimney breast in a muted scheme highlights it and creates an element of surprise. Try painting the fireplace in a contrasting colour to the walls, papering all walls or alcoves except the chimney breast, or opting for ›

LAYER UP

'To make your living room cosy, start with texture and layers, then bring in muted colours and finally lighting,' says Sally. Petersham sofa in linen union, £2,300; Cosy chair, £1,600; Kingham coffee table, £395; Norton stool, £120; Flokati rug, £445; Cowley floor lamp, £295, all The White Company

SOFT LIGHT

Create a warm diffused light with a shaded chandelier. Oxford double chandelier, from £1,499, Original BTC

> "In lieu of a **FIRE**, a few grouped pillar **CANDLES** will give your room a cosy glow"

HOLLY WALSH, FEATURES EDITOR

floor-to-ceiling colour, enveloping the fire surround and chimney breast, and just leaving the dark fireplace or decorative tiles to become the room's feature highlight.'

GIVE THE FIREPLACE A MAKEOVER

'Try using quarried stone or reclaimed tiles for your hearth,' says Sally. 'They will help ground the space.' Ruth advises, 'Most fireplaces are made from cast iron, varnished wood, tiles or stone, so if you're looking to paint yours – a contrasting colour always helps to accentuate this architectural feature – use a coat of an all-surface primer. If you have a sculptural or cast-iron fireplace, paint the walls and the fireplace itself the same colour. This reduces the power of the ironwork or shape but allows the detail to show through by the highlights and shadows displayed as light falls on it.'

STYLE UP A WOOD BURNER OR FIRE

'For a contemporary stove, try to keep the area around ›

FEATURE WALL
Make a focal point of your stove's flue by painting the wall behind in a rich colour, such as navy blue. For a similar paint shade, try Royal Navy intelligent eggshell, £33 for 1ltr, Little Greene

CURATED DISPLAY
'Use foliage, grasses and seedheads along your mantelpiece to tell the seasonal story,' Sally says. Ansh coffee table, £149.99, Wayfair, is similar

DISPLAY AREA
No mantelpiece? Set a small table to one side of the fire where you can style a few pieces. Rowan carpet in Dove, £41.99sq m, Carpetright

NEED TO KNOW...
THE BURNING ISSUE

While we love the cosy element that a wood-burning stove brings to a room, burning wood and coal in open fires and stoves makes up 38% of the UK's primary emissions of fine particulate matter.

The Clean Air Strategy 2019 sets about to reduce emissions at home and plans to legislate to prohibit the sale of the most polluting fuels, with only the cleanest stoves available for sale by 2022.

You don't need to wait to make a difference – even small changes can help, such as using only fully seasoned wood; avoiding burning waste wood; sweeping your chimney at least once a year; and lighting the fire only when you need to. Find out more at gov.uk.

> "Texture is key – think thick **WOOL** carpet, soft cashmere **THROWS** and big velvet cushions"
>
> **NICKY PHILLIPS,** DECORATING EDITOR

it minimal with a neutral palette. This allows the stove's bright dancing flames to be the focal point. For more traditional stoves, you could expose the original brickwork or opt for decorative tiles to create a warm, homely look,' says Declan. 'An inset stove gives the illusion of a "window of fire",' he continues, 'so keep things minimal to let the fire remain centre stage. Try either a single or a grouping of larger vases positioned on the floor.'

Sally would bring in a few statement pieces of foliage to create a focal point above – or even a few branches, leaned against the wall on one side.

MAKE THE FIREPLACE A FEATURE ALL YEAR ROUND

'Style with the seasons,' says Sally. 'For spring and summer, pop candles into the grate or add seasonal foliage. As you head into autumn, stack it with logs – they are great for adding texture and can be moved to a log basket on one side come winter.'

Declan's advice is to acknowledge rather than disguise. 'During the summer, a stove or fireplace remains a functional design element that boosts the aesthetics of any space, even though it's not in regular use. Keep logs and fireside tools close by, whatever the season – they add interest and make the stove feel homely all year round.'

KEEP THE HEAT IN

Don't forget the windows. 'I would always suggest curtains,' says Sally, 'as thick as possible, or with a thermal or blackout lining. Or possibly install wooden blinds – they are a great insulator. If you live in an old house, a draft excluder can really help.' Ruth likes curtains, too. 'Curtains will add a layer of cosiness that is more effective than blinds,' she says. ■

FEATURE JENNIFER MORGAN **PHOTOGRAPHS** FUTURECONTENT.COM

| IH COLOUR EDIT |

Green

THIS MONTH, OUR COLOUR CONSULTANTS GIVE THEIR VIEWS ON THIS DELICIOUS SHADE AND HOW TO USE IT FOR A BEAUTIFUL HOME

Upper wall in Aquamarine, lower wall in Ambleside absolute matt emulsion, both £48.50 for 2.5ltr, Little Greene

'What the experts say...

Designers and stylists share their views

'There are so many greens and some have very little in common. When combining different shades, an easy rule is to use either yellow-based or blue-based greens. Otherwise you'll have a very uncomfortable colour scheme. The closer together the greens are, the better.'
ANNIE SLOAN, CHALK PAINT EXPERT

'Green is amazingly versatile and works well in most rooms. Deep tones add warmth to a space, so in a north-facing living room bold shades will create a cosy, cocooning environment. Cooler shades of green work well in warmer rooms, such as a south-facing bedroom.'
DOMINIC MYLAND, MANAGING DIRECTOR, MYLANDS

'Grey-greens should be your new go-to neutral. They seamlessly complement a currently grey scheme without too much upheaval.'
VICTORIA YARDLEY, MD OF VICTORY COLOURS.

'Green is a useful ally if you are hoping to make small spaces appear a little larger. It is a receding colour with a short visual wavelength. Our mental association with green as a symbol of wide-open outside spaces means it works to make small rooms appear a little larger, so you can see why this visual trick works.'
MARIANNE SHILLINGFORD,
CREATIVE DIRECTOR AT DULUX

'Grey-greens are a very forgiving base. They are luxurious and refined – but never cold. To provide a fabulous first impression, use in your hallway or porch.'
ANNIE SLOAN, CHALK PAINT EXPERT

'For drama combine deep jewel tones with earthy darks, while for a lighter, fresher look, mix up more delicate tones of green, – or for the wow factor, try highlighting with a totally different colour, such as bright pink or acid yellow.'
ANDY GREENALL, HEAD OF DESIGN,
LITTLE GREENE

'Deeper greens, which are bold with blue undertones, fit really well with the fashion for lush, leafy botanicals. They look amazing teamed with gold and brass,'
VICTORIA YARDLEY, MD OF VICTORY COLOURS

Move over grey! Shades of green from the softer end of the spectrum work well in practical spaces such as a kitchen. **Suffolk kitchen hand-painted in Cactus, from £12,000, Neptune**

> "A **GRANITE GREEN** is a great base colour for well-lit rooms, but it's also **FANTASTIC** for accents and looks **DRAMATIC** on ceilings"
>
> **VICTORIA YARDLEY,** MD OF VICTORY COLOURS

the edit GORGEOUS GREENS

BEST ALTERNATIVE TO GREY
Trailing Plant botanical flat matt, £37.99 for 2.5ltr, Crown Paint

BEST FOR A DEEP, DRAMATIC LOOK
Mallard Green velvet matt emulsion, £40.64 for 2.5ltr, Dulux Heritage

BEST FOR OFFICES & KITCHENS
Bancha estate emulsion, £49.50 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball

BEST FOR A FRESH WELCOME
Rock Samphire matt emulsion, £41.95 for 2.5ltr, Victory Colours

BEST FOR A BALANCING FINISH
Myrtle Green marble matt emulsion, £53 for 2.5ltr, Mylands

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FEATURE SOPHIE BAYLIS

| ROOM RECIPE |

Boot room

THESE SIMPLE DESIGN INGREDIENTS ARE ALL YOU NEED TO MAKE SURE YOUR BOOT ROOM (OR HALLWAY!) IS BOTH STYLISH *AND* PRACTICAL. TICK OFF OUR ESSENTIALS TO CREATE A SPACE THAT'S AS SMART AS IT LOOKS

1. BASKETS

Group several of the same size and shape on shelves, placing smaller ones (that won't be too heavy to lift) up high, and larger ones, that can slide out easily for access, on the floor. Fabric lined baskets are great for accessories such as scarves that you don't want to get snagged or damaged.

IH LOVES...

- **Ikea stocks a wide selection of basics**
- **The Basket Room for colourful options**
- **La Redoute for elevated but well-priced styles**

2. HANGING RAIL

Overloading a rail will make it harder to find what you need, so only hang seasonal coats and jackets and choose matching hangers for smart cohesion. Think about splitting up each family member's outerwear into separate sections, or hang them by length, ensuring everything faces the same way.

IH LOVES...

- **Argos for sturdy, traditional-looking wooden hangers**
- **Wayfair for space saving wall-mounted rails**
- **Lakeland has great storage solutions for out-of-season coats**

3. SHOE STORAGE

Large, deep baskets are perfect for wellies and tall boots and wicker hampers make an ideal place for chucking trainers or sandals into at the end of the day. Make use of built-in cubbyholes as well as space under a console table or shelf too.

IH LOVES...

- **Store has several clever shoe racks**
- **Dunelm's great selection of wicker storage**
- **Cox & Cox for metal boot racks**

4. PANELLING

Wooden panelling is a great way to give a wall a smart new look, especially in a practical space like a boot room where family life can cause wear and tear. Tongue and groove is easy to fit, will add a touch of country charm and can be painted in any shade to suit your space.

IH LOVES...

- **Fine Panel for ready-to-fit kits**
- **Wickes has an extensive range of fuss-free adhesives**
- **Wallpaper Direct can help cheat the look with paper**

5. BENCH SEAT

Having somewhere to sit down, rather than wobbling on the doorstep, makes for a smoother transition when running out of the house each morning or returning from a dog walk. A bench with open storage is great for storing boots and shoes, or go for a lidded chest to keep school bags or your gym kit neatly hidden.

IH LOVES...

- **The Cotswold Company for beautifully made storage bench seats**
- **John Lewis & Partners has a great shoe rack bench**
- **Loaf for stylish linen-lined seat pads**

6. VIBRANT RUG

A rug will warm up chilly flooring and help zone your space to make it feel more like an extension of the rest of the home, rather than just a practical, sterile area. Where textiles will most likely be minimal, this is your chance to choose something punchy in terms of colour and pattern, so be bold with your pick!

IH LOVES...

- **Weaver Green makes beautiful rugs from recycled plastic**
- **Next has a huge range in varying sizes**
- **La Redoute for chic styles**

NEED INSPIRATION? HEAD TO IDEALHOME.CO.UK FOR MORE HALLWAY IDEAS

FEATURE HOLLY WALSH **PHOTOGRAPHS** FUTURECONTENTHUB.COM

> “Dress windows with a simple fabric blind to ensure the room feels cosy and finished”
>
> **NICKY PHILLIPS,** DECORATING EDITOR

| CLEVER DECORATING |

Genius storage

SIX STYLISH HACKS TO GET YOUR SPACE ORGANISED

Stencil drawer fronts

Bespoke a chest of drawers from Ikea with a simple chevron stencil. Stipple on furniture paint using a dry, coarse-haired paintbrush. Finish with clear matt varnish and leather tab handles.

Give it a twist...

Choose a trellis design for a more traditional look.

Make a secret shelving den

Instead of placing shelf units against a wall, face them towards each other to create a special reading nook. Suspend floaty fabric over a swing curtain pole for a magical hideaway canopy, letting it drape to the floor for a fairy-tale feel.

Give it a twist...

Swap one unit for the back of the bed head, if tight on space.

HANDY HOOKS

If kids are sharing, assign a shelf each, hanging individual hooks at the end for any cherished personal belongings or special toys

MAKE SURE FREESTANDING FURNITURE IS SECURED TO THE WALL TO PREVENT IT TOPPLING OVER

TIDY TIP
Choose sliding door wardrobes if space is tight and place lidded boxes and baskets on top for more storage

Replace solid doors with rattan

Get the designer look without the expense. Remove wood panels from wardrobe doors and staple sheets of cane to the backs. There's no need to wet-stretch the cane – just pull it tight and fix in place.

Give it a twist...

Cane is on trend but woven linen or soft slub cotton can add texture in a similar way.

Top a stool with drawers

Combine two Ikea staples to make a bedside table. Attach a Moppe chest to the legs of a Tenhult stool using wood glue. Paint drawer fronts with leftover emulsion or tester pots and coat with matt varnish.

Give it a twist...

Swap the paint for decoupage paper or pretty wallpaper offcuts to match your scheme.

LIGHTEN UP

Keep surfaces clear by adding a simple pendant or wall-mounted lamp above the bedside table

COLOUR CHEAT SHEET

- **Terracotta Tiles** matt emulsion, £2.99 for a tester pot, Ideal Home Emotions of Colour, Albany
- **Rosy Cheeks** matt emulsion, £2.99 for a tester pot, Ideal Home Emotions of Colour, Albany
- **Frosting** matt emulsion, £2.99 for a tester pot, Ideal Home Emotions of Colour, Albany

Double stack shelf units and attach metal legs

Make a one-of-a-kind space-efficient storage bench by layering Ikea Ekby drawer units on top of hairpin legs.

Give it a twist...

Transform into a glitzy console by adding gold leaf to drawer fronts and using gold legs.

WRITE ON

Add impact with an oversized blackboard. Make your own by painting MDF with blackboard paint and fixing it to the wall

MATERIALS CHEAT SHEET

STENCILLING
Chevron stencil, £10.99 for six designs, Amazon

STICKY-BACKED PANELLING
Alaska oak wall planks, £49.99sq m, Nature Wall

CANE ROLL
Cane webbing, from £13ft, Somerset Willow Growers

LOOK SMART
Don't overcrowd the shelves. Use stacks of bowls, piles of books and objects with interesting shapes to create balance in your display

Update doors with fluted film

Use glass film to transform a plain display cabinet into an up-to-date storage piece. The fluted glass film will also help to prevent chips and scratches.

Give it a twist...

Choose a stained glass or patterned window film design for a truly bespoke cabinet.

STENCIL DRAWER FRONTS

Alaska oak self-adhesive **wall planks**, £49.99 for 1sq m pack, Nature Wall. Malm Black/Brown six-drawer **chest**, £115, Ikea. Chevron **stencil**, £10.99 for six designs, Amazon; painted in Plasterboard acrylic **eggshell**, £24.22 for 1ltr, Ideal Home Emotions of Colour, Albany at Brewers. **Leather strip** (used for handles) from £7.13, Etsy. Eco braided **rug** in Soot, £140, The Braided Rug Company. Little Cheese **footstool**, £195, Loaf. Potted faux **olive tree**, £350, Oka. Glazed ceramic **pot**, £30, Rose & Grey. Type 80 Anglepoise **lamp** in Pistachio Green, £199; Writing by Ronelle Pienaar Jenkin **print**, £45; oak **frame**, £45, all Heal's. Lirio **vase**, £60, Oka. Chamomile Tea tall **vase**, £79, Heal's. Terracotta Collage **vase**, £28, Rose & Grey

MAKE A SECRET SHELVING DEN

Wall painted in Rosy Cheeks durable **matt**, £35.15 for 2.5ltr, Ideal Home Emotions of Colour, Albany at Brewers. Billy **bookcases**, £25 each, Ikea. Gardinia expandable swing **curtain pole**, £12.73, Amazon. Canopy in Toodle Pip **fabric**, £45m, Scion. Nobodinoz **garland**, £17.95; Little Dutch **guitar**, £29.95; Little Dutch **building blocks**, £22.95; Little Dutch **abacus**, £13.95; Lorena Canals Azteca **rug**, £137.95, all Scandibørn. Kids' **stool**, £40 set of two with table; Wood Dots wall **hooks**, £9.95 for three, both Homebase. Lion **cushion**, £41, Oyoy. Rainbow cord **cushion**, £25, Next. Square storage **boxes**, £14 set of four, Habitat. Onion **basket**, £34.90 set of two; Bowery rattan **basket**, £24.90; Casa **clutch**, £49.90; Holdie Folk **dolls**, £14.95 each; Holdie Folk **dinosaurs**, £24.90 set, all Olli Ella. **Books**, stylist's own

REPLACE SOLID DOORS WITH RATTAN

Alaska oak self-adhesive **wall planks**, £49.99 for 1sq m pack, Nature Wall. Hauga **wardrobe** with sliding doors, £189, Ikea. Open weave **cane webbing**, from £13ft, Somerset Willow Growers. Medium Poppy Field **rug**, £125, French Connection. Fae accent **chair**, £175, Next. Kyoto **cushion** in Dark Powder, £55, Oyoy. Floral **wall panel**, £150 set of two, Cox & Cox. Shiraz large **basket** (on floor) £57; two-tone **basket** (on wardrobe), £19.95, both The Braided Rug Company. Ferm Living Cashmere Grib **toolbox** (on wardrobe), £59, Rose & Grey. Market **basket** (in wardrobe), £35, Labour and Wait. Pink canvas **trainers**, £12, Sainsbury's

TOP A STOOL WITH DRAWERS

Wall painted in Plasterboard durable **matt**, £35.15 for 2.5ltr, Ideal Home Emotions of Colour, Albany at Brewers. Moppe mini chest of **drawers**, £17; Tenhult **stool** (top step used), £20, both Ikea. Drawers painted in Terracotta Tiles, Rosy Cheeks and Frosting acrylic **eggshell**, £24.22 for 1ltr, Ideal Home Emotions of Colour, Albany at Brewers. The Cottage **pendant**, from £78, Lam Lighting. Similar plant **pot**, £25, Arket. Fairtrade Datia **mug** in Berry Red, £19.95 set of two, Willow & Stone. Medium Siesta **rug**, £245, Loaf. Linen double **duvet cover** in Blush, £135; standard **pillowcases** in Blush and Spice, £18 each, all Secret Linen Store. Tufted woven **throw** in Nude and Black, £69, Rose & Grey. Macramé tassel **cushion** in Natural, £22, Next

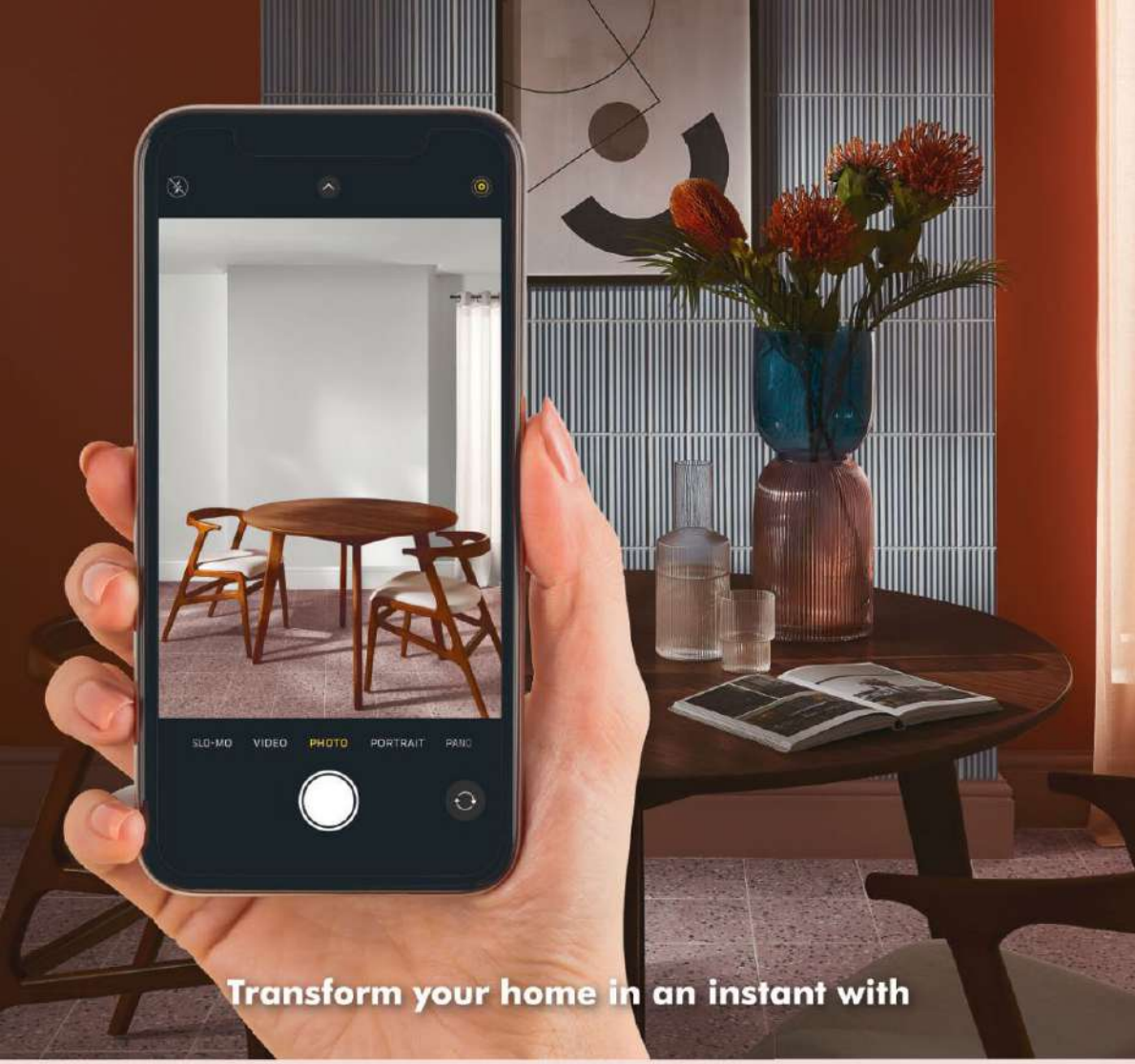
DOUBLE STACK SHELF UNITS AND ATTACH METAL LEGS

Ekby Alex **shelf units**, £35 each, Ikea. Hairpin **legs**, £80 set of four, The Hairpin Leg Co. Wall painted in Grey Steel 4 matt **emulsion**, from £20 for 2.5ltr, Dulux. **Chalkboard** made from MDF Lite, £36.02 for 244x122cm sheet, Travis Perkins; painted in Intense Black matt **blackboard paint**, £7 for 500ml, Wilko. (On console) Faux string of pearls **plant**, £45, Design Vintage. Wire letter **rack**, £8; **succulent** in pot, £6, both George Home. Artificial **fern** stem, £2.99, Clas Ohlson. (On floor) Poppy Field **runner**, £95, French Connection. Similar rattan **basket** with handles, £15.99, Zara Home. Seagrass **basket**, from a selection, Nkuku. Similar Diamond Coral **blanket** with tassels, £45, Weaver Green

UPDATE DOORS WITH FLUTED FILM

Rudsta **cabinet**, £99, Ikea. Solyx Reeded Glass adhesive **film** (on doors), from £16.97 for L30xW68.5cm roll, Glass Films. SlatWall Acoustic natural oak **wall panels**, £129.99 for H240xW60cm, Nature Wall. Layered Paper framed **print**, £125, Cox & Cox. Cyrus fabric sleigh **chair**, £170, Habitat. Chunky velvet weave **cushion**, £20, Next. Knitwit **rug** in Natural, £245, Loaf. Plant **pot** with plant, £7.99, Sainsbury's. Trent medium **vase** in Raspberry, £39, Heal's. Inka Kana small **pot**, £28.99, Oyoy. (In cabinet) Shoreline **bowls**, £8 each; dinner **plates**, £10 each, both French Connection. Ceramic **tumblers** in Pink, £18 set of two, Willow & Stone. Dusty Rose large stoneware **jug**, £24, Rose & Grey. Linen **napkins**, from £8.50 each, The Linen Works. **Books**; **camera**, all stylist's own

FEATURE NICKY PHILLIPS **PHOTOGRAPHS** TIM YOUNG **STYLIST** CHARLOTTE BOYD **ASSISTANT** SUSANA FERNANDES



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> **HEATHER YOUNG,** EDITOR

PHOTOGRAPH OLLIE HAMMICK

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'The island-breakfast bar combo was a really important feature for me, as I love having friends here while I'm cooking.'

Huisen UK retro breakfast bar stools, £99.99 for two, Amazon. Opulent Optic pendant lights, £410 each, Rothschild and Bickers

PROJECT DETAILS

WHO LIVES HERE?
Model and food writer Daisy Lowe lives here with her boyfriend Jordan Saul, and Maltese terrier Monty.

THE PROJECT
A side return kitchen extension in a Georgian terrace in North London.

TOTAL COST
£47,790

BEFORE

KITCHEN PROJECT

No-cook zone to social hub

A GLASS-ROOFED EXTENSION TURNED DAISY LOWE'S KITCHEN INTO A BRIGHT, SOCIABLE HUB – THE IDEAL SPACE TO COOK FOR FRIENDS

GLASS ROOF LANTERN
Boosts light and gives the working area of the kitchen a sense of height
'I really thought through the layout. My bin and dishwasher are hidden on either side of the sink, and all the foodstuffs are in a lovely big pantry unit at the far end.'
Real Shaker kitchen units, in Bakehouse Green, £660 for a 60cm base unit, DeVol. Calacatta marble worktops, £408sq m, The Worktop Library

THE PROBLEM

The kitchen was dark and cramped, with no room to cook or socialise.

THE SOLUTION

'I wanted a bigger, brighter room, with more work surfaces, updated appliances and comfy seating. My must-have was an island with a big Aga and breakfast bar. I decided on a traditional, country feel, but with feminine touches, so DeVol's farmhouse-style cabinetry was perfect, maximising the narrow space. The pink china cupboard, marble tops and pretty lighting soften the look.

The side extension was built in six weeks and cost £100,000. The kitchen fitting cost around £5,000 and took about five days. Everything went smoothly apart from the resin floor, which was too beige, but we solved the problem by adding grey paint into the final coat of sealant.

It's such a pleasure to cook or just spend time in there, especially now we can entertain again.'

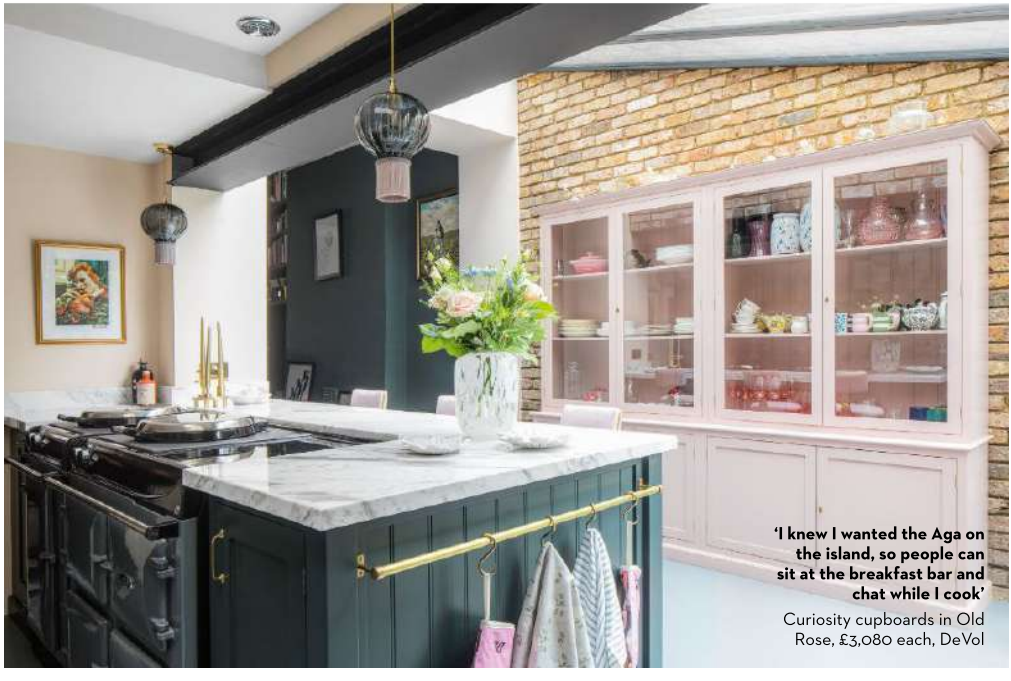
'The new glass roof and doors have transformed the room. There's a bit of an industrial feel to them.'

Bespoke glass roof and doors, £13,200, E&A Windows. Similar resin floor, around £75sq m, Sphere8

FOCUS ON
BRICK SLIPS

How and where to use these nifty lookalikes

- Brick slips are a fuss-free way to add texture, character and an industrial vibe to any internal space. They're either purpose-made, or created by slicing whole bricks into manageable 'tiles', usually around 20mm thick. Slips are lightweight, relatively easy to handle, and can transform plain walls with an authentic exposed brick look.
- Brick slips can be made from new or reclaimed bricks, so there's a lot of variation in sizes, colours and surface finishes. New slips are cheaper, starting at around £30sq m, with reclaimed products costing up to about £70sq m.
- A brick sealant can protect hard-working areas like a kitchen splashback from moisture or staining, but they are generally really durable.



'I knew I wanted the Aga on the island, so people can sit at the breakfast bar and chat while I cook'

Curiosity cupboards in Old Rose, £3,080 each, DeVol

'The boiling water tap is amazing for drinks and cooking, and no kettle cluttering up my work top! I wanted a big butler's sink and the fluted front makes this one a bit prettier.'

800 fluted ceramic sink, £1,020; Aged Brass Ionian tap, £520; Aged Brass Parthian mini instant hot water tap, £950, all DeVol

'I was very tempted to have a completely pink kitchen, so the pink china cabinet is a nice way to bring in femininity and that element of colour, without totally committing.'

London Weathered Yellow brick slips, £40sq m, Brick Slips

BRICK SLIPS Cost-effective brick slips give an authentic character look

> "It pays to check and then check again. 'I really believed 'I'd thought of everything, but 'I still forgot to include storage under the breakfast bar"

DAISY LOWE, HOMEOWNER

KEY SURFACES

LEFT TO RIGHT **Kitchen units** Bakehouse Green furniture paint, £65 for 2.5ltr, DeVol **Worktops** Calacatta marble, £408sq m, The Worktop Library **Walls** London Weathered Yellow brick slips, £40sq m, Brick Slips

KITCHEN SOURCEBOOK

Kitchen (design, build and fitting), DeVol, devolkitchens.co.uk. Worktops, The Worktop Library, worktoplibrary.co.uk. Glazing, E&A Windows, eandawindows.co.uk. Resin floor, Sphere8, sphere8.com. Wall paint, Lick, lickhome.com. Range cooker, Aga Rangemaster, agaliving.com

FEATURE ANNABELLE GRUNDY **PHOTOGRAPHS** JAMES FRENCH

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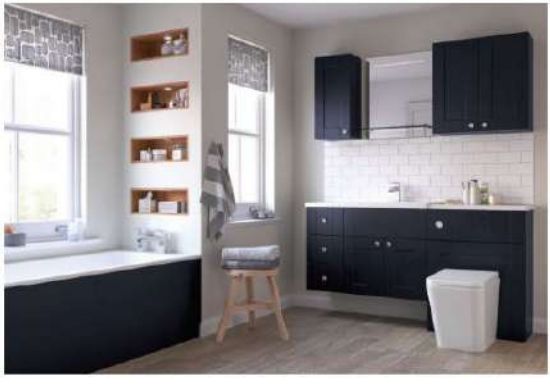

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Side return extensions

THIS ADDITION CAN TURN WASTED SPACE INTO A FLEXIBLE LIVING AREA. HERE ARE THE KEY FACTORS TO BEAR IN MIND...

For many homeowners, the side return – that patch that runs alongside the ground floor of a house – is a redundant space, and one that's ripe for development. Extending into it is a tried-and-tested way to boost floor area and bring in natural light. Most often used to create a sociable kitchen-diner, a well-thought-out project can be key to making your home suit your lifestyle.

WHAT IS A SIDE RETURN?

Side returns are often found in Victorian terraced properties as a lot of them include alleyways in their configuration. By filling this in, the L-shaped back of the house is squared off, creating that all-important additional space.

WHY EXTEND INTO IT?

'If you have space to the side of your property and need some extra room, a side return extension might just be what you're looking for,' Rich Morgan, design director at Resi, explains. 'Side returns, or side infills, allow you to expand outwards and turn an unused area into living space. The main perk is that it tends to use up "dead space", rather than sacrificing part of your garden. This makes this project ideal for anyone living in an area where green space is at a premium.'

DO I NEED AN ARCHITECT?

Not necessarily. Some conservatory companies and specialist builders offer a complete 'design and build' package, including fees to architects or structural engineers for drawing up plans.

'For large-scale home improvement projects, we always recommend you bring an architect on board,' advises Rich. 'While it is an extra expense, the benefits of an architect's professional input make employing one a great investment. However, there's no legal obligation to do so.' An architect can make the most of the space your project creates, not only giving you an improved living experience but also a better return on your investment when it's eventually time to sell the house.

> "USE UP 'DEAD SPACE' RATHER THAN PART OF THE GARDEN"

AND PLANNING PERMISSION?

Council rules changed in October 2008, so you no longer need to have planning permission for a ground floor side extension under permitted development (read Charlie Luxton's expert advice on page 131). You'll still have to comply with building regulations and possibly with the Party Wall Act, so speaking to your local council's planning office is vital.

NEED TO KNOW
PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

The info and essentials you need to factor in when planning your project

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST? A simple design will cost anything from £20,000 to £50,000, depending on factors such as where you live and the building materials. Extra internal work, such as a kitchen, and the style – for example glazed doors – will affect the final figure.

WHAT IS INVOLVED? A new wall is built, either on the boundary or solely on your side. A roof is added then the existing side wall is knocked through. A steel frame may be needed to support this new opening.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE? Plan for eight to 10 weeks for the structure, plus extra for the interior. This is dependent on planning, complexity and any party wall issues.

IMPROVE ACCESS TO THE OUTSIDE

Extending over just part of a side return can make a huge difference to your living area. In a town centre, even a small patio gives you the best of both worlds.

GO FRAMELESS WITH GLASS

Minimal joints on the glass roof and walls of this extension maximise the amount of light in the space below, making for a light and airy kitchen.

MAKE A FEATURE OF MATERIALS

Wooden ceiling beams add a traditional touch in this kitchen, creating an interesting contrast with the full-height glass garden doors.

KEEP IT SMALL AND SIMPLE

Extending by just 50cm can make all the difference to your living space – this narrow addition makes island seating possible.

FEATURE JENNY MCFARLANE **PHOTOGRAPHS** FUTURECONTENTHUB.COM

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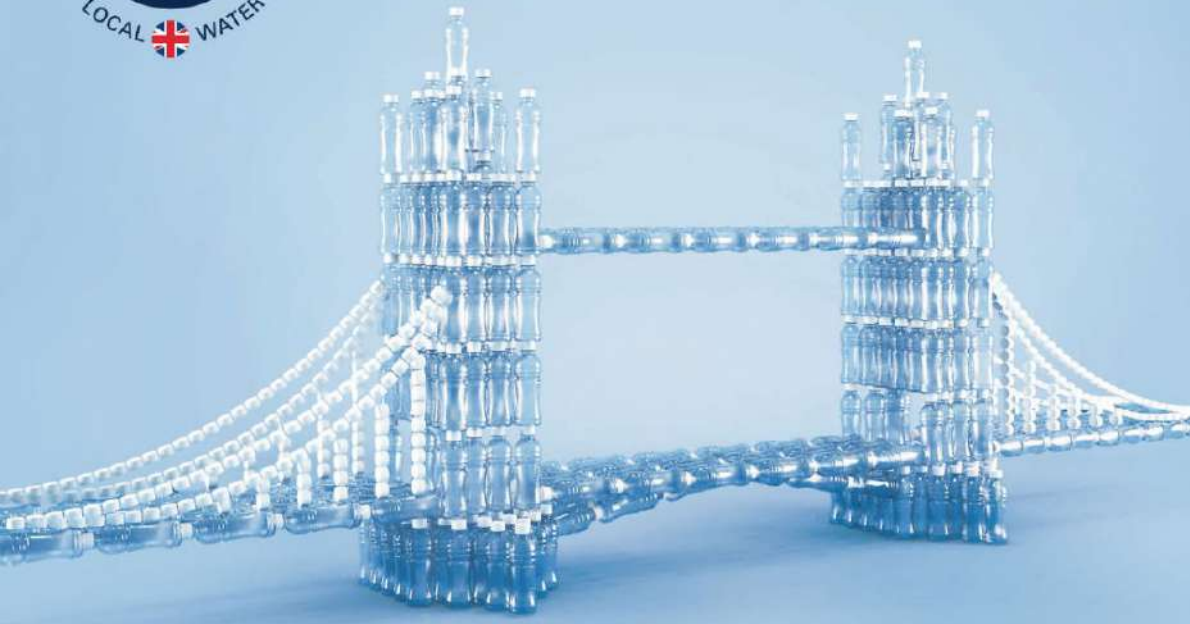

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BATHROOM PROJECT

Adding a focal point

INSPIRED BY A DREAMY PASTEL-PINK BATH, PHOEBE MILLER'S GORGEOUS BATHROOM IS FILLED WITH SHOW-STOPPING ELEMENTS

PROJECT DETAILS

WHO LIVES HERE?
Phoebe Miller lives here with her husband Michael.

THE PROJECT
Bathroom refit in a three-bedroom, converted Victorian coach house in Leeds.

TOTAL COST
£8,196

'The bath is so dainty and feminine. It's made from a resin compound that feels warm and retains heat.'
Casini Satin Rose bath, £3,500, BC Designs at Sanctuary Bathrooms

BEFORE

WALL LIGHTS
Glass shades echo the fluted theme
UNDERFLOOR HEATING
Frees up wall space and works well with the floor tiles

THE PROBLEM

The bathroom hadn't been touched since the 'Nineties and had clunky fittings.

THE SOLUTION

'I love to take a bath, so a new tub was the first thing I looked for. When I saw this beautiful, fluted pink design, I had to have it, and chose everything else to fit around it. I didn't want the room to feel too bathroom-y, and I like mixing styles, hence the unexpected touches, such as the antique wooden washstand, contemporary taps and wall panelling instead of tiles.

We stuck with the existing layout, which simplified the plumbing, and we included a separate shower, which Michael prefers. Fitting cost us around £6,000 and was straightforward but took about three months due to lockdown-related delays.

After such a long wait, my first soak in the new bath was lovely – lots of bubbles, a podcast and a glass of wine. It's a gorgeous space to be in.'

FOCUS ON
FAUX MARBLE

Get the look of luxury without the price tag

- Real marble flooring is beyond a lot of our budgets, but thankfully there are other ways to get this luxe effect without breaking the bank.
- As well as looking super realistic, faux marble tiles are easy to care for – they can resist most stains, dirt and odour.
- Most tiles will work well with underfloor heating – no one wants cold feet stepping out of the bath!
- Luxury vinyl tiles (LVT) are ideal for rooms with water exposure, such as bathrooms and kitchens. LVT is also easy to keep clean and feels warmer than traditional tiles.
- Sheet vinyl flooring is a fantastic solution if you're on a budget. Hard-wearing and usually scratch- and stain-resistant, if installed and looked after properly, it can last up to 15 years.
- If you do treat yourself to a marble floor, use a soft mop to remove dirt.

ABOVE 'I wanted to keep the lighting simple and soft, with wall lights around the mirror and a single pendant overhead. It took me a long time to find a ceiling light, but this little chandelier with its brass scallops fitted the bill.'

Mirrors, £215 each, Cox & Cox. Mia Antique Brass wall lights, £148 each, Jim Lawrence. Similar ceiling light, Eggesford, £160, Dusk Lighting

RIGHT 'The walk-in shower has a different feel. Navy works well with the pink, and the brassware all matches, while the scalloped tiles are in keeping with the curves elsewhere in the room.'

Syren Midnight Blue tiles, £85.04sq m; Torrano Calacatta floor and wall tiles, £36.89sq m; all Topps Tiles. Crosswater MPRO shower kit pack, £783, Sanctuary Bathrooms

'I toyed with the idea of traditional taps, before falling for these modern brushed-brass ones. I like how they contrast with the bath.'

Crosswater MPRO mixer tap, £719, Sanctuary Bathrooms

'I love the symmetry of the washstand.'

Angelica basin, £849, London Basin Company. Crosswater MPRO taps, £273, Sanctuary Bathrooms. Table, £150, Oakwood Vintage. Panelling, £600, Dixons Design

"I always want everything done immediately, but the whole process took so long that I just had to manage my impatience. The delays were no one's fault and it was worth it in the end"

PHOEBE MILLER, HOMEOWNER

KEY SURFACES

LEFT TO RIGHT **Walls** Panelling painted in Gauze Mid intelligent eggshell, £68 for 2.5ltr, Little Greene. **Floor tiles** Torrano Calacatta 60x60cm, £36.89sq m, Topps Tiles. **Shower tiles** Syren Midnight Blue wall tiles, £85.04sq m, Topps Tiles.

BATHROOM SOURCEBOOK

Bath, BC Designs, bcdesigns.co.uk. Fittings and brassware, Sanctuary Bathrooms, sanctuary-bathrooms.co.uk. Wall panelling, Dixons Design, @dixonsdesign. Tiles, Topps Tiles, toppstiles.co.uk. Basin, London Basin Company, londonbasincompany.com. Paint, Little Green, littlegreene.com

FEATURE ANNABELLE GRUNDY **PHOTOGRAPHS** DARREN CHUNG

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**Source: A survey of 201 dental hygienists in the UK, Ipsos (2019)

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ASK AN EXPERT

IDEAL HOME'S RESIDENT ARCHITECTURAL DESIGNER CHARLIE LUXTON SHARES HIS DESIGN KNOW-HOW

"What can I do without planning permission?"

I was very flattered to be asked to be the new renovation columnist for *Ideal Home*. My brief is to cut through the bluff and bluster that abound in the architecture and design world to give clear, understandable advice to readers wanting to make the best of their homes. So far, so good. Then the editor told me my first piece was on permitted development, and my heart sank! The principle of PD rights is simple enough: they allow certain changes to be made to a home without the need of planning permission. Unfortunately, they were drafted by civil servants, not known for their clarity of approach, who tried to cover as many of the possible changes and combinations of changes to the 27.8 million UK homes as they could. Also, each of the home nations has its own form of PD rights! There is a long list of more unusual allowances, such as converting a barn into a home and building some temporary structures – but there is also a long, long list of complex and detailed restrictions.

I'm not going to attempt to unpack the nitty-gritty of PD rights here as you'll find some very good, fairly lengthy guides online with lots of diagrams to help explain the principles. If you're thinking of exercising your PD rights, then you'll need to read these guides *extremely carefully*. No one should launch into a building project of any size based on assumptions about what is allowed. It is too complex, with too many nuances and caveats.

If, having done your homework thoroughly, you think you'd like to rely on PD rights to make changes to your home, then before you hire a builder or swing a hammer you should check with your local council that they agree with your assessment. Think of it like this: you've seen something really tasty in the fridge. You're pretty sure it's fine to eat it, but you just check with your partner before doing so. It prevents arguments, which in the case of eating the last of the hummus, is nice but no big deal; in the case of a £100k extension, is best avoided.

There is a second very good reason to ask for confirmation on proposed changes under PD. When you come to sell your home, your buyer's lawyers are likely to ask for evidence that any changes you've made are legal. If you don't have robust proof of this, you'll have to charge around at the last minute to get it or possibly lose the sale.

This question is asked by applying to your local planning department for a Lawful Development Certificate. Submit a simple set of drawings with a form explaining how the proposed change complies with PD rules and a fee (about half that of a proper planning permission application). It will take a similar length of time as a planning application, but the good news is that it's not discretionary. The planning officer is just looking at how you've interpreted the rules, not asking neighbours or commenting on the design.

If all this seems too much of a faff, or what you're proposing is small and simple, you could seek advice from a building surveyor or planning consultant and push on without getting the council involved. You will need to get something in writing, so if you're questioned by the council or future buyers you can produce it.

While I appreciate that it seems wrong to have to ask to do something that you're allowed to, the risks are too high not to double check. If you get it wrong and build something the planning department finds out about and decides doesn't comply with PD rights, they may take enforcement action. This means making a retrospective planning application – always nerve-racking – and the ultimate penalty could be having to take down or undo the work you've shed blood, sweat and tears over. ■

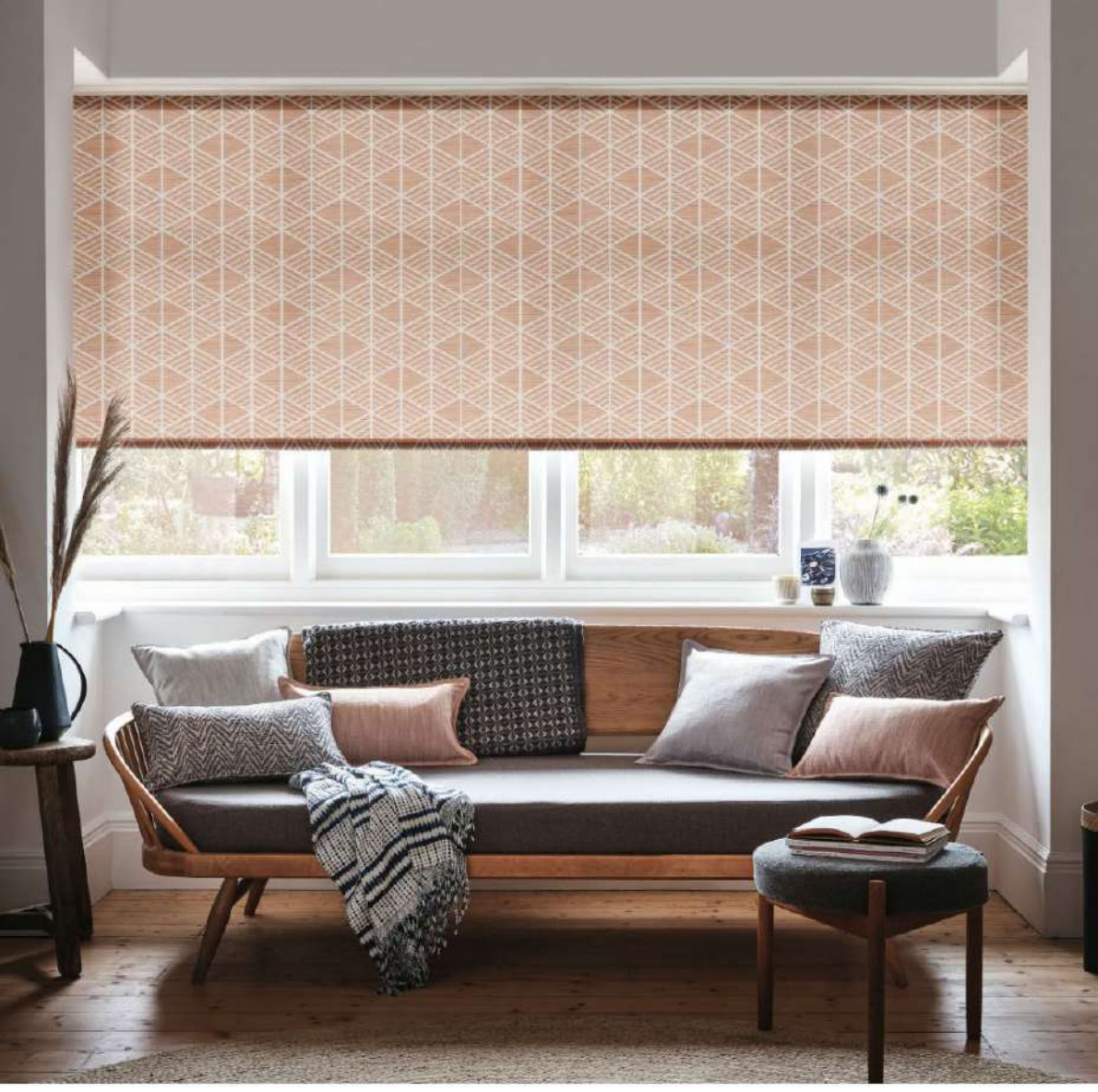
THE MAIN CHANGES PD ALLOWS FOR ARE:

- Extensions or alterations to a house
- Certain porches, doors and windows
- Sheds, pet enclosures, fuel storage structures
- Exterior painting
- Gates, boundary walls and fences below H2m
- Installing certain micro-generation equipment

Outbuildings are allowed within limits

Many extensions are permitted

PHOTOGRAPHS FUTURECONTENTHUB.COM



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The side and rear extension created space for a complete rejig of the interior layout

EXTENSION PROJECT

Light-starved to sun-drenched

AMOS GOLDREICH, DIRECTOR OF AMOS GOLDREICH ARCHITECTURE, EXPLAINS HOW A GLAZED EXTENSION HAS TURNED THE GROUND FLOOR OF THIS VICTORIAN TERRACE INTO A SUNNY SPACE

BEFORE

HOME NOTES

HOMEOWNERS
Steve Burgin and Graham Ogilvie

PROPERTY
Four-bed Victorian terrace in North London

ARCHITECT
Amos Goldreich Architecture (agarchitecture.net)

BUILDERS
BKB Projects

TOTAL COST
£250,000

LEFT Positioned beneath the frameless up and over glazing, the oak-lined window seat creates an indoor-outdoor feel

BELOW Instead of incorporating insulation between the exposed oak beams, it has been installed above. This has maximised floor-to-ceiling height and enhances the feeling of space

THE PROBLEM

'The disjointed layout lacked light and was disconnected from the galley kitchen

THE SOLUTION

'We added a side and rear extension,' says architect Amos Goldreich. 'This allowed us to rearrange the living spaces around the garden and an internal courtyard, which is now a winter garden with automated rooflights. Having this indoor-outdoor space at the centre of the floorplan channels light into the reception rooms at the front of the house. The winter garden has also opened views through to the garden when you're in the living room at the front. We altered the floorplan to turn the galley kitchen into a spacious open-plan kitchen-diner, which flows onto a new sun terrace. Connecting with the outdoors was a key goal, so we pushed the window seat into the garden. The seat combines with up and over glazing so it feels as though you're sitting outside in a light-filled cocoon.'

> “Establish a clear brief for your architect – the more aspirations you can give as a guide, the better”
>
> **AMOS GOLDREICH,** ARCHITECT

Aluminium sliding door frames maximise the area of glass and garden views. Pale floor tiles help bounce light around the space

FOCUS ON WINDOW SEATS

Amos Goldreich shares his top tips and ideas

1 **TYPICALLY, IT'S BEST TO POSITION** your window seat at a similar height to a standard chair – not too high, not too low.

2 **CUSHIONS CAN BE BUILT INTO** the joinery design or you can add loose cushions later.

3 **OPENABLE WINDOWS ARE POSSIBLE,** but with fixed glazing you can create a more frameless look.

4 **INCORPORATE AN UP AND OVER STRIP** of glazing to create the feeling of sitting outdoors.

5 **CHOOSE A DIFFERENT MATERIAL** for the interior finish of the seat to help differentiate it from other parts of the living space. Stick to the same material (like the oak pictured here) to create continuity.

FEATURE REBECCA FOSTER
PHOTOGRAPHS OLLIE HAMMICK

The window seat looks out over a fish pond so it feels part of the garden

PROTECT YOUR HOME WITH YOUR PHONE

HAVE PEACE OF MIND AT HOME OR AWAY WITH HIVE HOMESHIELD, THE EASY-TO-USE SYSTEM THAT PUTS SECURITY AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

Hive HomeShield is operated via a keypad and smart home hub

The Hive HomeShield app has unique family log-in details so it can be controlled by different family members

Deter would-be criminals with sound and light from the Hive HomeShield siren

The last year has seen us spend more time at home than ever before. We've invested in home improvements and high-tech upgrades, so it's only natural that security is in our thoughts as our lives start to get back to normal.

SECURITY IN HAND

Whether 'normality' means a return to the office or holidays abroad, rest assured that your home is safe and secure with Hive HomeShield – a Smart Home Security System that lets you protect your home with your phone via the Hive app. Part of the Hive 'Ecosystem' from British Gas, Hive HomeShield can be operated from a tablet, smartphone or Apple Watch.

Three modes – Home, Sleep and Away – give varying levels of notifications and can be armed and disarmed remotely.

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HIVE

WORDS LISA FAZZANI

HEXAGONAL SLATE

This striking cladding on an extension to a Victorian house in a Conservation Area contrasts beautifully with the decking.

Designed by The Vawdrey House (thevawdreyhouse.com)

PROJECT PLANNING

Exterior cladding

WE EXPLAIN THE DIFFERENT MATERIAL OPTIONS AND BENEFITS, PLANNING DOS AND DON'TS... AND HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT LOOK FOR YOUR HOME

Cladding is the skin of your house – it's the outer layer that helps to insulate and protect it from the elements, and it enhances your home's appearance, too. Cladding has become as important a consideration as interior design. 'Our clients are increasingly as aware of the multitude of options for the exterior of the house as they are for the interior,' says Ian Chapman RIBA, director at The Vawdrey House. 'In the same breath, we're discussing the marble on the kitchen island, the oak on the living room floor and – in a similar aspirational way – the façade materials on the outside of the building.'

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES?

There are two main ways to use cladding – as part of the construction of a new extension, or for the over-cladding of an existing building. You can choose to bring something new that complements existing architecture, or you can reinvent

SIBERIAN LARCH

Warm wood perfectly complements this old stone building.

Designed by residential architects HOKO (hokodesign.com)

SWEET CHESTNUT CLADDING

In this Victorian terrace extension the sweet chestnut rear façade continues around to become the fence, making a sleek outdoor room, while industrial style glazing enhances the urban feel.

Designed by The Vawdrey House

"CLADDING IS THE MOST FLEXIBLE WAY OF CHANGING A BUILDING'S EXTERNAL APPEARANCE"

a tired exterior. 'Cladding is the most flexible way of changing a building's exterior appearance – which, in turn, can really increase the value of your home,' says Danny Campbell, founder of residential architecture firm HOKO.

WHAT IS A RAIN SCREEN?

Cladding is generally split into two categories: bonded and rain screen. Bonded cladding is directly bonded to the wall of the existing building – render or brick slip are popular examples. Rain screen cladding is attached using a carrier system, such as plywood battens. This ensures there is adequate ventilation of the surface, making the wall breathable and preventing moisture from getting trapped, which would cause damage. A rain screen system is typically used when cladding in timber or metals such as zinc.

WHERE DO I START?

Adding cladding to any building can be complex, and getting it wrong can prove costly, so you should always contact an architect. They will advise on materials and – because application is just as important – recommend tradespeople to fit it.

'There are myriad decisions,' says Ian Chapman RIBA, director at The Vawdrey House (thevawdreyhouse.com). 'The design and compositional treatment of the building, the choice of material, sustainability, how it will be installed and how it will affect the building physics.'

DO I NEED PLANNING OR OTHER PERMISSIONS?

There are several things to check before you embark on a cladding project. Gareth Pinwell is a planning lawyer and partner at Ashfords LLP. 'If you live in a listed

COPPER AND CORTEN STEEL

For a strong and altogether modern feel, this double-storey extension marries two cladding materials – copper and steel.

Designed by Daniel Masterman of Adam Knibb Architects (adamknibbarchitects.com)

WEATHERBOARD CLADDING

Although this is a modern build, the traditional style and teal-coloured cladding perfectly suits the rural setting of this barn-style home.

NEED TO KNOW

TYPES OF CLADDING

The pros and cons of different material options when deciding which cladding to choose

BRICKWORK Easy to maintain, exposed bricks are the most popular choice, but how they're made will affect their look, qualities and price. Your bricklayer should discuss bonding patterns, mortar colours and joint details with you.

BRICK SLIPS Brick slips are thin sections of genuine brick that can be used to give the appearance of a real brick wall. They are lighter and therefore don't require the deep foundations of regular brick.

TIMBER While timber needs more maintenance than stone or brickwork, it is cheaper. Hardwoods like oak and cedar can be left untreated to age and weather – for example, larch and western red cedar turn from an orange to a silvery grey within two years.

FIBRE CEMENT WEATHERBOARDS Though it usually costs more than timber, composite weatherboarding is often pre-finished, will not warp or twist and is extremely fire resistant. It comes in a variety of colours and doesn't require any maintenance.

METAL Zinc, copper, corten steel or aluminium are ideal for modern builds, as they're striking, malleable and lightweight. They're also quick to put up and highly resilient.

RENDER Render can create a smooth, textured or patterned finish, and comes in a wide range of colours. While stark white renders are less fashionable right now, earthy tones and greys are popular.

building, cladding will likely be a no-no straightaway,' says Gareth. A non-listed building in a Conservation Area presents challenges, too. 'If you were to introduce cladding that was at odds with the majority of buildings in that area, you might not get consent,' he adds. 'A lot of it is common sense. If you've got a nice row of Georgian houses, you wouldn't clad one in zinc!'

'In more and more cases, councils are introducing design guides, listing what they do and don't like,' says Gareth, who advises that you work with an architect familiar with local planning preferences.

WHAT CLADDING IS BEST FOR MY HOME?

'Your choice of materials and finish is crucial. Not just what they look like on day one, but how they age and weather over time, and the long-term maintenance required,' says Ian Chapman.

'More traditional cladding methods like brick and render have had a revival in recent years, with new technologies and more finishes offered than ever before,' says HOKO's Danny Campbell. 'These finishes can look fantastic against existing buildings and can either blend in or contrast with the existing building.'

'We usually encourage people to embrace a contrast and use a new material, and we love to explore the details and junctions which allow the new to sit effortlessly next to the old.' ■

ENGINEERING BRICK

This extension has a stepped façade of blue engineering bricks and features a textured brick arrangement surrounding the picture window with a corten steel reveal.

Full-width extension by The Vawdrey House

LARCH CLADDING

Over time, larch cladding weathers if left untreated, and gradually turns from orange to an attractive silvery grey. The process can be seen here on this single-storey home.

FEATURE AMY CUTMORE **PHOTOGRAPHS** (THE VAWDREY HOUSE) SIOBHAN DORAN PHOTOGRAPHY; FUTURECONTENTHUB.COM

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The shortlist

ROUND DINING TABLES

Sociable space savers and oh so stylish. Pick a bistro, extending or fab four-seater

Normann Copenhagen Knot dining chairs, £400 each; similar table, House Doctor Club dining table, £901; Bloomingville round jute indoor/outdoor rug, £239; tableware and accessories, from a selection, all Amara

1

'I come in black and natural finishes too'

2

3

8

WHERE TO BUY

1 Solid mango wood dining table, H75 x diam120cm, £769.99, Wayfair **2** Globe dining table, H76 x diam125cm, £1,199, Furniture Village **3** Terni dining table, H75 x diam100cm, £239, Danetti **4** Provence dining table, H76 x diam110cm, £549.99, Oak Furnitureland **5** Nell dining table, H74 x diam100cm, £1,479, Barker and Stonehouse **6** Chelsea glass table, H75 x diam140cm, £369, Very **7** Sussex extending dining table, H78 x diam110-145cm, £599, Cotswold Company **8** Gold arch table, H77 x diam110cm, £399, Next Home

4

7

'I'm extendable, ideal for extra guests'

5

6

Buying guide

Stand mixers

THESE APPLIANCES LOOK THE PART, BUT THEY'RE ALSO GREAT FOR TAKING THE MUSCLE WORK OUT OF EVEN THE TOUGHEST RECIPES

BEFORE YOU BUY

How much you spend on a stand mixer depends on whether you're buying with a long-term view. Basic models can be picked up for £50, but for one that will last, budget for at least £100. Beyond £150, you'll mainly be paying for colour choices, styling, extra features or accessories. More expensive mixers tend to have a sturdier build.

Most models come with three tools: a balloon whisk for whipping cream, eggs and light mixtures; a dough hook for kneading bread; and a beater for batters, biscuit dough and general mixing. This could also be a flexi or scraper beater, which helps scrape down the bowl as it mixes. Another common accessory is a splashguard, which prevents contents escaping during vigorous mixing.

Stand mixers often have more than one outlet. The main one rotates the tool in the bowl and the others power the attachments. These may include a blender jug for making smoothies and soups or crushing ice, or a food processor to slice, grate and chop.

Most brands offer extra attachments to buy. Options include rollers for pasta and ravioli makers, mincers or grinders for meat, slicers, pre-freeze ice cream bowls, mills, spiralisers and juicers.

Accessories and attachments can take up a fair amount of room. Look for models that can store accessories in the bowl or that come with a storage box.

Unlike for some small appliances, where wattage can be a guide to how powerful a machine is, when buying a mixer it's better to spend on more tangible features. Bowl capacity is a good place to start. Some can be as low as 3.3 litres, but the average is 4–5 litres; 6-litre-plus bowls are ideal for batch baking. Bowls are usually made from stainless steel, but they can be glass, which enables you to keep an eye on the ingredients as they mix.

Most stand mixers use what's known as planetary mixing action. The tool orbits while the arm moves around the bowl, to keep the mixture moving towards the middle rather than being flung out to the sides. All mixers have a range of speeds, so you can build up the speed gradually.

There may be a 'soft start' to stop fine ingredients, such as flour, puffing out before the speed ramps up. Also useful is a pause function – this halts mixing so you can add ingredients, then returns to your chosen speed. Some mixers will have preset programmes for food types such as cake, or a gentle fold option.

Other extras include integral lighting to give a better view inside the bowl, a countdown timer to prevent over-mixing, and sensors that help maintain speed when tackling heavier loads.

> "Plan to use your mixer for more than mixing? Opt for a model with attachments, like a pasta roller or a blender jug"

GINEVRA BENEDETTI, ASSOCIATE EDITOR

1 BEST FOR EASE OF USE
KENWOOD KMIX

POWER 1,000 watts
SPEED SETTINGS 6
CAPACITY 5-litre bowl
PRICE £449.99

There's something for everyone with this. It's incredibly easy to control, its 5-litre heatproof glass bowl allows you to see what's going on, and it can handle up to 1.35kg of dough. During our testing it stayed steady even at high speeds, preparing everything from fluffy doughnuts to whipped cream and meringues perfectly. Compatible attachments include a pasta cutter, mill and dicer. It comes in a choice of colours and all parts are dishwasher-safe.

REASON TO BUY
It has a fold function for delicate mixes like brioche
REASON TO AVOID
At 10.9kg, it's pretty heavy
RATING 5/5

2 BEST FOR BAKING CAKES
KITCHENAID ARTISAN

POWER 300 watts
SPEED SETTINGS 6
CAPACITY 4.8-litre bowl
PRICE £399

Everyone recognises this classic – so we put it to the test to see if it's still the cream of the crop. The verdict? It's sturdy, efficient and quiet, but we found the motor a little lacking. The handled bowl screws on easily; the whisk, beater and dough hook are dishwasher-safe; and an optional pouring shield prevents splashes. It is heavy – 11kg with accessories – but the tilt-head design fits under cabinets, and it comes in myriad colours with matching appliances available. It mixed some delicious cakes and you can buy lots of attachments to make pasta and ice cream, and even stuff sausages if you wish.

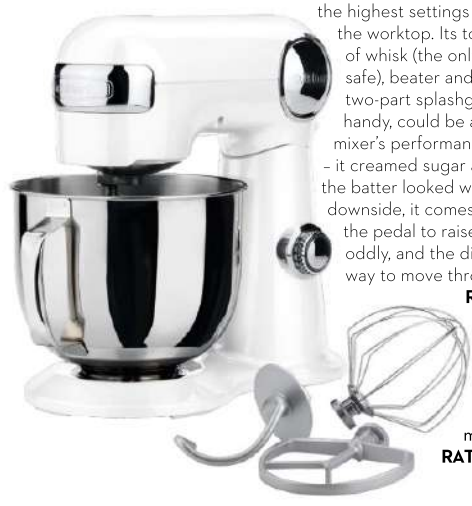
REASON TO BUY
Great classic looks in lots of colours
REASON TO AVOID
Lacks the power of other models we tried
RATING 4/5

Tried & Tested

We believe that any product should be simple to use, stand the test of time, look good and work brilliantly to make your life easier. Our testing team put each product through its paces at home, over several weeks, pitting them against everyday situations. Those products that make the mark are awarded a star rating. And the very, very best are awarded our 'Ideal Home Approved' recommendation.

EST. 1920 Ideal Home APPROVED ★★★★★

3 BEST FOR A LARGE CAPACITY
CUISINART PRECISION



POWER 500 watts
SPEED SETTINGS 12
CAPACITY 5.2-litre bowl
PRICE £275

A smart choice for batch bakers thanks to its roomy bowl, which can knead up to 1.2kg of dough, whip 1.4 litres of cream or whisk 12 egg whites in one load. There are 12 speeds, from a gentle stir (ideal for starting dough) to a rapid whisk. The mixer shook a little on the highest settings but stayed steady on the worktop. Its tools are the usual trio of whisk (the only part not dishwasher-safe), beater and dough hook; the two-part splashguard and spout, while handy, could be awkward to use. The mixer's performance couldn't be faulted – it creamed sugar and butter quickly and the batter looked well aerated. On the downside, it comes only in black or white, the pedal to raise the head protrudes oddly, and the dial feels like a clunky way to move through the speeds.

REASON TO BUY With 12 speeds it's perfect for mixing dough
REASON TO AVOID
It has a lower power output than most, so may struggle at times
RATING 4.5/5

FOR MORE STAND MIXERS VISIT **IDEALHOME.CO.UK/BUYING-GUIDES-REVIEWS**

FEATURE MILLIE FENDER, RACHEL OGDEN **MAIN PHOTOGRAPH** FUTURECONTENTHUB.COM

loaf

LIFE IN THE SLOW LANE

Beds, Sofas and Furniture for Loafers

The shortlist

WOW WALL LIGHTS

Create a directional glow and keep bedside tables clear

'I'm a plug in so installation is easy!'

WHERE TO BUY

1 Brooklyn Amber glass schoolhouse wall light, £99, Industville **2** Foggy ceramic wall light, £180, Lusophile **3** Black wall lamp, £165, Rose & Grey **4** Cone shade wall light, £49, Houseof **5** Ivar wall light, £45, Habitat **6** Tetbury wall light, £38, Next Home **7** English Garden wall fitting with shade, £101, Pooky **8** Gina, £247, Hudson Valley Lighting Group **9** Raffia wall light 4 level, £124, Smallable

FEATURE MICHELA COLLING

BEFORE YOU BUY

- Stick vacuum cleaners are generally an upright plus a handheld in one. Those designed to deal with pet hair often have a special attachment to use with the handheld, but the stick's floorhead may also have features for cleaning pet hair. As two vacuums in one, they can save space, but the top-heavy design can be tiring to use.
- Upright vacuums are larger than sticks, but can be easy to move over different floor surfaces. Going up and down stairs with a machine in hand does require lifting more weight, however. Special pet attachments can deal with fur on upholstery.
- Robot versions do the job for you, so are good for keeping up with lots of shed hair. Capacity is limited, but self-emptying versions can extend the time until you need to go to the bin.
- You can find vacuum cleaners for pet hair starting at around £120, but you could pay more than three times as much for a top-end model, while a robot vacuum will cost even more.
- Do you prefer a bagged or bagless vacuum? Bagless saves the expense of buying bags and making sure you have a supply. But the ease of emptying the dustbin varies between models, and how much dust puffs up as you do, does too. The capacities differ and can be relatively small. Vacuum bags can fit in more and seal tightly when you change them.
- With cordless models, there's no lead to move from socket to socket. The plug-in models we tested have long cords, but cordless vacuums set you free to roam. However, when the battery runs down you'll need to stop unless you've got an extra battery. Running times can be long, but vary between models. Also, boosting the suction shortens the running time.

Buying guide

Pet hair vacuums

EVERYONE WHO LIVES WITH A PET OR TWO KNOWS THAT FUR GETS EVERYWHERE! THESE CLEANERS ARE DESIGNED TO PICK UP HAIR FROM EVERY SURFACE FOR A MORE HYGIENIC HOME

1 BEST CYLINDER MODEL
MIELE BLIZZARD CX1 CAT & DOG PRO POWERLINE

BAGGED OR BAGLESS? Bagless
DUST TANK CAPACITY 2ltr
WEIGHT 8.7kg **PRICE** £419

This cylinder model is easy to wheel along the floor. The floorhead is a turbobrush, so it brushes the carpet as well as suctioning dirt from the pile. For upholstery and pet beds there's a mini version that works in the same way. Our testing revealed powerful results on the furriest floors and furniture, but this machine has so much suction that it was a bit of an effort to push on carpet, and it blew light debris around. The suction can be adjusted, though. As many of us have allergies as well as pets, we like the lifetime HEPA filter which traps dust and allergens, along with the filtration system of this vac. It isn't cordless, so it needs to be plugged in, but with 7.5m of cable we roamed widely without having to scrabble for a socket.

REASONS TO BUY
Easy to use with the tools conveniently on board
REASON TO AVOID
Heavy when you need to carry it up and down stairs
RATING 5/5

Tried & Tested

We believe that any product should be simple to use, stand the test of time, look good and work brilliantly to make your life easier. Our testing team put each product through its paces at home, over several weeks, pitting them against everyday situations. Those products that make the mark are awarded a star rating. And the very, very best are awarded our 'Ideal Home Approved' recommendation.

EST. 1920 Ideal Home APPROVED ★★★★★

2 BEST ROBUST MODEL
HENRY PET200

BAGGED OR BAGLESS? Bagged
DUST TANK CAPACITY 9ltr
WEIGHT 8kg **PRICE** £159.98

Henrys are renowned for their durability and power, and this one brings pet clean-up features to the mix. It has a special EcoBrush to deal with fur, and if your pets bring a niff to the air, you'll welcome the charcoal-activated filter, too. A big hit with us is this vac's huge capacity – well ahead of our favourite bagless pet-hair models – and self-sealing bags mean dust-free emptying. At 8kg it's not light, but wheeling it round and tight turns were no problem, and the cord is 10m long. It's a no-frills vacuum, but that's a compliment.

REASON TO BUY
Goes a long time before it needs emptying
REASON TO AVOID
You'll need to buy vacuum bags
RATING 4.5/5

3 BEST UPRIGHT MODEL
DYSON BALL ANIMAL 2

BAGGED OR BAGLESS? Bagless
DUST TANK CAPACITY 1.8ltr
WEIGHT 7.34kg **PRICE** £299.99

This model will suit fans of upright cleaners who want dedicated pet-hair removal abilities along with effective all-round vacuuming. It needs plugging in, but thanks to the 10.81m long cord, this wasn't an inconvenience. The machine comes with an attachment that uses rotating brushes to pick up pet hair from upholstery. It fixes to the integrated wand handle and it achieved excellent results. The wand can be used high up, too, for other cleaning tasks, though this was bit unwieldy. After that, it's down to the cleaner head to remove the fur, mud, debris and whatever else accumulates on the floor. We found this fantastically efficient on carpets, removing a whole lot of unseen but lurking fur, as well as on hard flooring, and three suction modes coped with all our dirt challenges.

We're fans of this model's ball design, which makes it easy to manoeuvre around furniture, up to skirting boards and into corners; it also fits neatly under the sofa. The upright design allows for a large dust container, which is easy to empty, but this machine does take up a fair amount of space when not in use.

REASON TO BUY
Beautifully manoeuvrable for high and low
REASON TO AVOID
Needs a big cupboard for storage
RATING 5/5

FOR MORE VACUUM CLEANERS VISIT **IDEALHOME.CO.UK/BUYING-GUIDES-REVIEWS**

FEATURE SARAH WARWICK **PHOTOGRAPH** FUTURECONTENTHUB.COM

GIVE FLOORS AND WALLS A STYLE UPDATE

BRING THE WARMTH AND BEAUTY OF NATURAL WOOD TO ANY ROOM WITH THE LATEST WOOD-EFFECT FLOOR AND WALL TILES AT TILE GIANT

Opt for a linear layout in a modern bathroom

Stanton Wood White Matt 150x900mm tiles, £42.92sq m, Tile Giant

Go for classic herringbone in a hallway

Caledonian Oak 98x593mm tiles, £42.51sq m, Tile Giant

Wood is a natural winner, bringing warmth, character and timeless style to any space – but for high-traffic areas and moisture-prone rooms such as bathrooms and kitchens, wood-effect tiles offer an all-round option that not only look great, but are practical and hard-wearing too.

CLASSIC GOOD LOOKS

Find a style to suit your space, with Tile Giant's latest wood-effect floor and wall tile collections available to buy in store and online. In a range of natural timber tones and realistic wood grain finishes, there's something to suit every room. Create a statement herringbone floor in a hallway or living room using the Caledonian range which comes in three earthy shades of Oak, Birch and Grey. Or try a contemporary, linear look in a bathroom or kitchen using sleek Stanton tiles, available in four shades, on floors and splashbacks.

PRACTICAL CHOICE

Low-maintenance and easy to install, porcelain tiles are waterproof so won't be damaged if exposed to water (unlike real timber), making wood-effect tiles a more practical option for kitchens and bathrooms. Durable and hard-wearing, porcelain tiles are suitable for use with underfloor heating too, so will feel toasty underfoot in chillier months. And Tile Giant's new Sibillini range offers an antibacterial tile that eliminates up to 99.9% of bacteria and protects surfaces 24 hours a day.

WHERE TO BUY

To see the full range of wood-effect floor and wall tiles, head to your nearest Tile Giant or visit tilegiant.co.uk

Tile Giant

FEATURE LISA FAZZANI

IDEAL VS GREAT DEAL

Create a luxury-look living space with soft seating and cosy accessories for a new season update

SIMPLE STRUCTURE
Konnor floor lamp, £210, Hudson Home

FINISHING TOUCH
Mantle arch mirror, £355, Rose & Grey

SHAGGY STRIPE
Square fluffy cushion, £49, Cult Furniture

WILD WINNER
Tortoiseshell candle holder, £30, Oka

GREEN GODDESS
Artificial fiddle leaf plant, £80, Oliver Bonas

GET COSY
Marilyn throw in Oyster, £40, Walton & Co

REST AND REPEAT
Arundel three-seater sofa in Burgundy, £3,295, Soho Home

SWITCH ON
Tetbury floor lamp, £95, Next

GENTLE CURVE
Mantle arch mirror, £50, Dunelm

BOLD LINES
Moroccan tufted cushion, £10, B&M

GET THE GLOW
Brown spotted glass tea light, £18, Maisons du Monde

SNUGGLE UP
Faux fur throw, £20, George Home

FABULOUS FAUX
Artificial fiddle leaf plant, £17.99, Dowsing & Reynolds

SUSTAINABLE STAR
Virtue three-seater sofa in Cosy Grape, from £80 a month to rent, Loop by Sofology

FEATURE HOLLY WALSH

LIFE ADMIN

NO-NONSENSE SOLUTIONS TO EVERYDAY HASSLES

CLEANING

Stay on top of cleaning jobs by creating a schedule

Start by listing out the jobs that need to be done daily, those that can be done every second day, once a week and so on. Move from room-to room as you do, starting with the kitchen (for example, empty the dishwasher, wipe down the countertop) to the living room (vacuum the floor, dust the shelving, etc) to every room in the home. Don't forget connecting spaces like the hallway, landing and stairwell.

Everyone in the family will have a chore that they hate and equally one they don't mind doing, so try and dish out the tasks in order of preference, making sure everyone has their fair share and that they're spread out over time. Draw up a chart with everyone's tasks on it and the frequency with which they need to be done and hang it somewhere that everyone in the family has easy access to.

DIGITAL LIFE

Q 'How can 'I keep on top of my passwords?

If you're willing to throw a few quid at it, there's a simple solution. Nordpass (nordpass.com) will manage unlimited passwords on all of your devices for a monthly fee of £1.47 for a one year subscription. If you prefer to go it alone, remember these four key points when setting passwords: always use upper and lower case letters, numbers and special characters; never use personal information (kids' names, birthdays, etc); quantity is better than quality so choose long passwords and always avoid well-known expressions.

HOME MAINTENANCE

Take control of your TV recorder

1 CLEAR OUT THE OLD
Set aside time to go through the list of items recorded, and delete anything you've already watched, followed by anything that you can't be bothered watching anymore. Only keep anything that you really do want and make a point of watching it soon.

2 RECORD THE ESSENTIALS ONLY
Because the option to record is there and it's easy to do, there is the tendency to record anything and everything and then subsequently forget about it. Try to only record shows and movies that you really don't want to miss.

3 DELETE AS YOU WATCH
Get in the habit of deleting shows as soon as you've watched them so they don't clog up your recorder.

ORGANISING

Guide to selling stuff online

DON'T BE LAZY – SELL IT WELL
Good photography and a clear description (including dimensions) will help you sell your stuff quickly. If it needs to be cleaned or ironed, do it. Photograph it somewhere that has good natural light and against a plain background. If there is any damage, detail and photograph it.

MAKE YOUR PRICING MORE APPEALING
Add any postage costs to the starting/minimum price and offer free P&P. Always list at a penny less (so list a £10 item at £9.99).

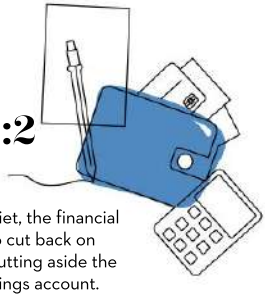
KEEP IN CONTACT
Make sure you're contactable when your items are for sale and respond to messages quickly.

POST IT ASAP
Make sure you're able to post the item quickly after the buyer has paid. If you can't, keep in regular contact with them.

'Does your Le Creuset cast iron casserole pot no longer match your kitchen décor? Le Creuset will swap it for a new one in your colour choice.

FINANCE

'What's the 5:2 money diet?



WHAT IS IT? Like the 5:2 food diet, the financial version of the 5:2 requires you to cut back on spending for two days a week, putting aside the money saved into a separate savings account.
WHY DOES IT WORK? As saving is limited to just two days a week, it feels far more achievable than having to constantly watch your pennies. And provided you plan well in advance, it shouldn't be too hard to do either.
TRY THIS... Want to ramp it up? Try it in reverse by saving for five days and spending for two – and watch your savings grow.

SMART HOME

Q 'Do you need smart smoke alarms & carbon monoxide detectors?

The UK Fire Service advises that homes should ideally have a smoke alarm fitted in every room, except bathrooms. Standard smoke alarms cost between £5 and £20 each, whereas you should expect to pay up to £100 for a smart version. Inevitably, buying one for every room, as well as landings and hallways will end up costing you a pretty penny, but if your budget allows, it's definitely worth investing in smart versions.

Compared to standard smoke alarms, which just sound when they detect smoke, smart versions will set off an alarm in your home, as well as alerting you on your phone. Most will allow you to turn the alarm off using your phone and they also tend to have a long battery life, too, notifying you when it's running low so you don't have that irritating 'chirping' sound.

Though expensive, many brands will offer discounts if you buy multiple devices. These can be wirelessly connected to each other, so if one alarm goes off, they all go off.

Want extra protection? Google's 2nd Generation Nest Protect (from £109 each) doubles as a carbon monoxide alarm, too, sounding an alarm if it reaches unsafe levels.

FEATURE GINEVRA BENEDETTI **ILLUSTRATIONS** EMMA JACKSON

wake up

it's time to put compromise to bed

7 out of 10 people are sleeping on the wrong mattress

Too many of us are making do with a mattress that's not suited to our unique sleep needs. At Silentnight we can match you to a mattress that's perfect for you. In fact, from beds to bedding, we have sleep solutions for the whole family.

discover solutions for every sleeper | silentnight.co.uk

Silentnight

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MONEY MATTERS

IDEAL HOME'S COLUMNIST AND EDITOR OF THEMONEYEDIT.COM KALPANA FITZPATRICK SHARES HER FINANCIAL WISDOM

'How do you manage household finances like a pro?

One in five adults admit they are not financially resilient, with a quarter saying they have no disposable income to fall back on*. If the pandemic has left your finances off balance, it's time to rethink how you manage your household money. Our money expert, Kalpana Fitzpatrick, shows you how to avoid debt, save more and get a grip on that household budget.

DITCH THE LOYALTY

Switching service providers can slash hundreds of pounds off your bills, yet one in six adults never review household expenses, according to budgeting app Yolt – that's 8.6 million who are 'bill blind'. If you haven't switched energy, broadband, phone or insurance policies for over a year, then you could save hundreds by comparing deals. Moving energy providers alone could slash over £200 off your annual bill. Use the Citizens Advice comparison tool at energycompare.citizensadvice.org.uk. Compare other services using uswitch or moneysupermarket.

REMORTGAGE YOUR PROPERTY

Switching service providers may save you hundreds, but remortgaging could save you thousands. You may want to remortgage if your fixed rate deal has come to end, and you're on your lender's standard variable rate, which will be costing you more, or it could be that you just want a better rate than your current fixed rate. If the value of your property has gone up, remortgaging could also allow you to borrow more against your property, which can then be used to pay off expensive debts.

KICK SUBSCRIPTIONS ADDICTION

It's official: we are a nation of super subscribers, with the average household signed up to seven services, according to Barclaycard. Whether it's Disney+ or Freddie's Flowers, ask yourself if you are still getting good value. The average person wastes around £100 in unused subscriptions**, so take time to review each one and cull the ones you no longer want.

TAKE THE 'COUCH TO 5K'

Get financially fit with the MoneyHelper's Couch to Financial Fitness programme at couchtofinancialfitness.moneyhelper.org.uk. Use the tools to cut costs and strengthen savings to help with buying a home, for example. Run by the government, the free online service aims to improve your finances and wellbeing.

Speak to a mortgage adviser to get the right advice for you. Find one at unbiased.co.uk

Three apps to help you manage money:

1 SNOOP (SNOOP.APP)
This app keeps a close eye on your bills by letting you know if it thinks you're paying too much. It can help you get a better deal on anything from broadband to energy prices.

2 YOLT (YOLT.COM)
Allows you to view all your accounts in one place. With your spending on one single dashboard you can see how much is going in and out. You can also opt for its pre-paid card to set budgets on items, such as groceries or entertainment.

3 EMMA (EMMA-APP.COM)
Overspending or always in overdraft? Use the Emma app to get insights on your spending, and use its budgeting tools and alerts for when you are heading into overdraft.

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ILLUSTRATION EMMA JACKSON

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TECH SUPPORT

GET THE LOWDOWN ON SMART HEATING

Take control of your home's central heating and the money you spend on it by making your system 'smart'.

The clue's in the name. Smart heating is the most efficient way to have complete control over your home's central heating and hot water. It allows you to monitor your system wherever you are, heating your home only when it needs it, rather than wasting energy unnecessarily. Connecting your boiler to an app on your smartphone, smart heating systems allow you to create heating schedules and, depending on the one you choose, control the heating in each room manually. Here, we explain the options available, whatever your budget...

WHAT IS IT?

Made up of at least one smart thermostat hub and a number of radiator valves, a smart heating system can be as compact or as wide-reaching as you choose (or your budget allows). You can just have one smart thermostat on its own, or link up a number together along with a whole clutch of radiator valves. As it's connected to your home's Wi-Fi, many systems can even be voice controlled using Alexa, Google Assistant or Siri, so you can turn your heating up or down without budging from the comfort of the sofa.

WHAT'S A SMART THERMOSTAT?

Not to be confused with smart meters, which give readings of your energy usage, a smart thermostat is a far cleverer version of a bog-standard central heating thermostat. It's usually made up of two devices: a wired relay that attaches to your boiler and a control hub with a display that links to your system via Wi-Fi. You control your heating via the hub or via an app on a smart device. As well as adjusting the temperature in a room, you can programme it to turn your heating on when you're close to home (by tracking your phone's location), switch it on holiday mode when you're away to save energy and protect your pipes or have alerts set up if you've left the heating on and no-one's home.

CLEVER EXTRAS

As with most smart home systems, the more devices you link up to one network, the wider control you'll have. Smart valves are devices that you attach to your existing radiators, effectively making them 'smart'. They link up wirelessly to your smart thermostat giving you the option of controlling a radiator independently of the rest of your heating system. This is particularly useful for bedrooms as they don't need to be heated all day, but you can programme the heating to warm the room before bed.

FIND YOUR BEST MATCH

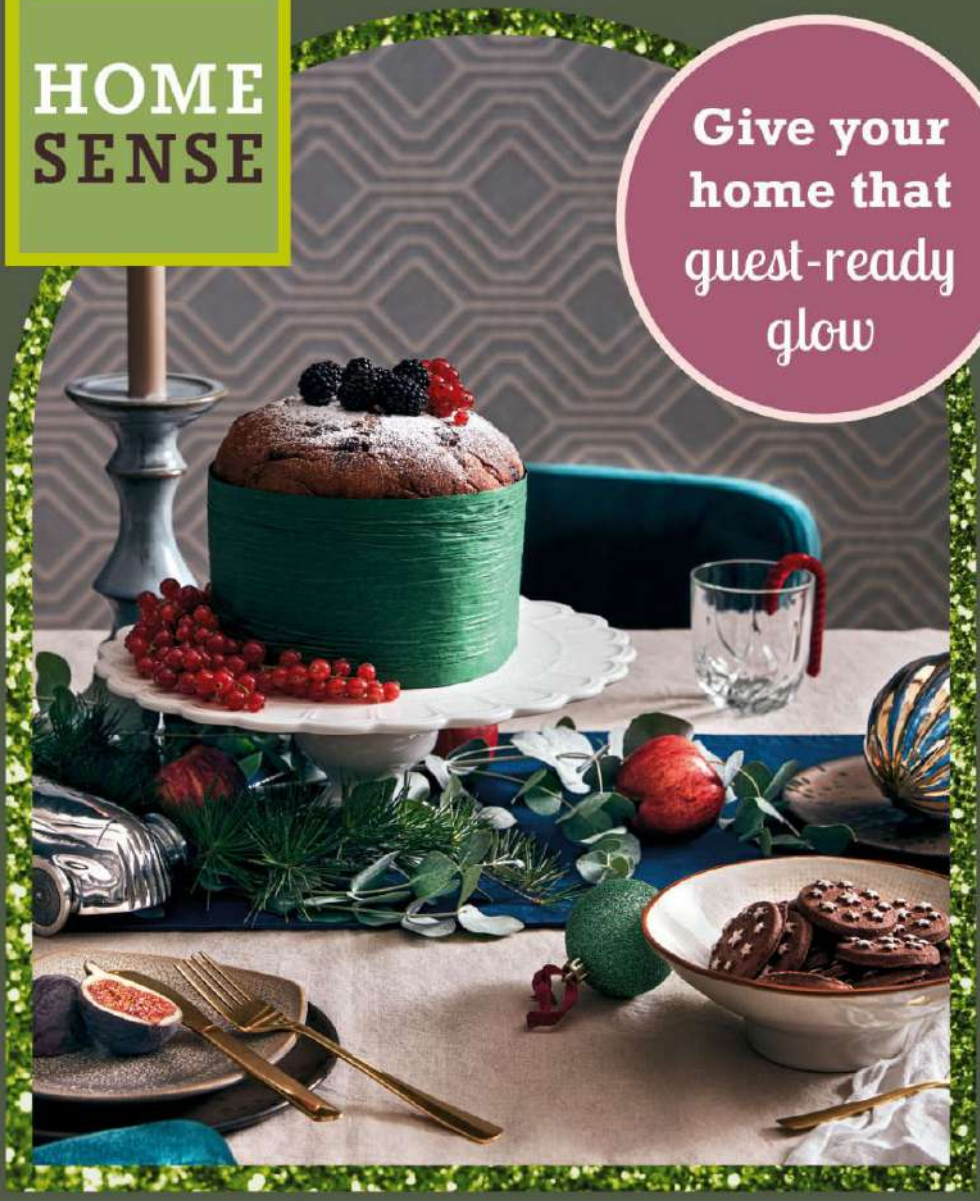
If you already have a number of Google devices at home, it's worth choosing the Google-owned Nest thermostat for super easy integration. The same goes for the British Gas-owned Hive, which also offers smart lighting and home security systems. Those with wet underfloor heating might be best served by a WundaSmart system – the brand's website will give you an instant tailored quote. Other trusted brands include Tado, Netatmo and Honeywell. Expect to pay from around £180 for a thermostat. Depending on the system you choose, you can either install the thermostat yourself, or the company will do it for you for a small fee.

'Independent of energy suppliers, a smart heating system won't be affected if you choose to switch tariffs or supplier for a better deal.

FEATURE GINEVRA BENEDETTI **ILLUSTRATION** EMMA JACKSON

HOME SENSE

Give your home that guest-ready glow



Products vary per store

Visit your local store to host a Christmas with bells on!

Part of the TK MAXX family

happy home

FIND YOUR ZEN WITH MONTHLY COLUMNIST FEARNE COTTON

Home is the womb. It's safety and comfort, and our hideaway from the velocity of the modern world. We want our homes to be a retreat and a place to recalibrate when life feels too much.

As we all know, there are no guarantees when it comes to homes; there's often the chaos of family life, pet hair, washing machines breaking, damp on walls, food stains on sofas, yet there are elements we can control and parts of the home that we have beautiful agency over.

My husband often refers to me as a Bowerbird. Ever watched one in action on a wildlife documentary? Imagine me with wings and a beak going about my nest filling it with shiny objects and attractive sticks. I love nothing better than to potter, and could spend a whole day moving objects about, repainting old furniture and arranging wildflowers in vases. HEAVEN! I'm constantly looking for that equilibrium and harmony in the home.

This month, I'm loving a blue double-layered shelving unit, which I got for a steal on eBay. It's bright and slightly weathered, has six individual compartments and is the perfect place for me to display precious things. So far, there are shells the kids found on the beach in Dorset, my favourite natural roll-on oil, some incense, a little photo of Honey that her teacher laminated on her last day of reception, and a candle that smells of grass. Whenever I look at it I beam. A happy home isn't one full of super spenny items, or show-home styled accessories, it's one of memories.

I want my home to be a museum of reminders of all of my favourite things, places and people. My new shelving unit is very much a shrine to all that I love, and I look forward to filling it with more things over the coming months. It's in the kitchen where I spend most of my time, so is a constant source of good vibes.

Fill your home with objects that spark joyful memories. To me, that is a very happy home. ■

> "I want my home to be a museum of reminders of all of my favourite things, places & people"

TREASURE HUNT
'Shopping at the Dorchester Curiosity Centre is the funnest day out!'

COLOUR HIT
'I love this paint colour, Solstice by Atelier Ellis'

POP ART
'My cousin's (IG @artbybiba83) on my walls'

LISTEN TO FEARNE'S *HAPPY PLACE* PODCAST ON YOUR FAVE PODCAST APP

PHOTOGRAPHS ALAMY

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one small step

IDEAS FOR A SUSTAINABLE HOME

> "Each mattress is made from recycled plastic bottles"

Nemo mattress, from £449 for a single; £599 for a double; £649 for a king and £749 for a super king, Nemo

Zero carbon mattress

Mattresses are one of the worst waste offenders in the UK, with over 7.5 million of them currently in landfill. Handmade in the UK, the latest mattress-in-a-box brand Nemo features the highest content of recycled plastic – at least 300 plastic bottles worth – of any mattress currently on the market. What's more, every single element within each mattress, as well as the packaging it comes in, is suitable for reuse or recycling, meaning you can sleep soundly in the knowledge that you're doing your bit for the environment.

FEATURE GINEVRA BENEDETTI

This month...

REDUCE Put an end to a messy home compost bin while reducing your household waste with the new Sage FoodCycler, £399.95. This odourless countertop machine will dehydrate, grind down and finally cool your food scraps into a fifth of their original volume.

RECYCLE Dunelm has introduced a super collection of eco products made from recycled materials. From the Ecomix white table lamp, £25, which has been made from recycled newspapers, to the 28cm frying pan, £29, made from recycled aluminium which can be recycled again after use.

REUSE Ekologik's fab range of cleaning products come with refillable sachets which you pop in the bottle and top up with warm water. Genius. **From £15 for a cleaning kit (includes three bottles for life, three child protective tins and three refills) Refills from £1.70 each.**

Virtue three-seater sofa in Cozy Forest, from £65 a month for 18 months, Sofology

LANDFILL-DODGING FURNITURE

Furniture brand Sofology has just launched a new service to help extend the life cycle of living room furniture, and avoid it being discarded. The service – called Loop – allows you to rent a three-seater sofa, armchair or footstool from the company for a period of six, 12 or 18 months, giving you the flexibility to choose furniture that you may not want to commit to buying outright. All from the Virtue range, each piece comes upholstered in a choice of seven shades and when the rental term has finished, you can either buy it at a reduced price or the piece is returned to the company, stripped back to its bare bones (with the old materials recycled) before being reupholstered for its next rental.

Spice up your life

Ginger is exactly what you need for the colder months. These recipes will warm your palate and your soul

COCONUT, GINGER AND KAFFIR LIME MUSSELS
See page 167 for recipe

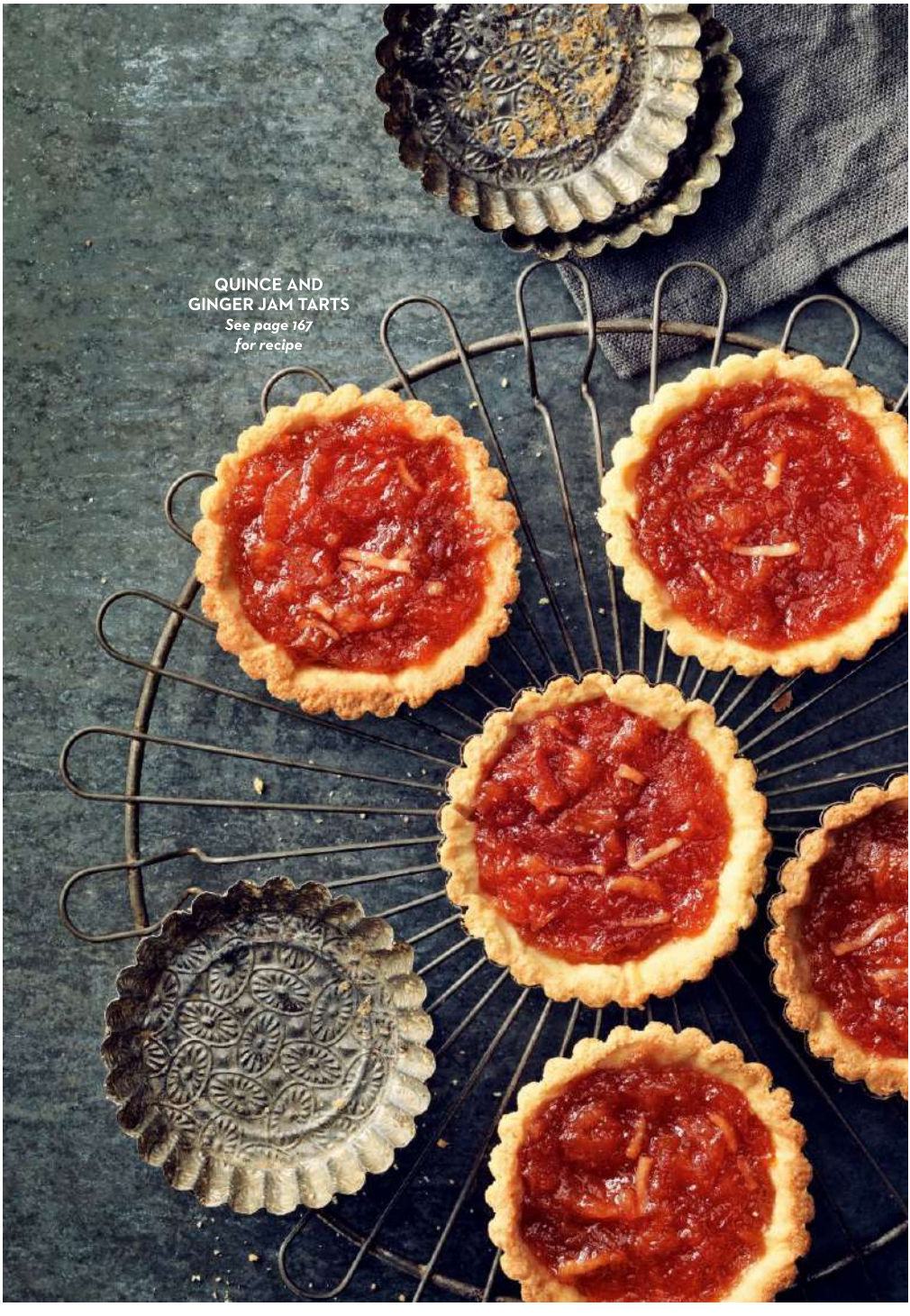
IDEAL HOME TIP

'To prepare mussels, scrub the shells under cold running water and remove any 'beards'

CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP WITH A GINGER BROTH
See page 167 for recipe

IDEAL HOME TIP

'This flavourful soup is lovely served with steamed tenderstem broccoli or pak choi



QUINCE AND GINGER JAM TARTS
See page 167 for recipe

GINGER AND LEMON DRIZZLE CAKE
See opposite for recipe

IDEAL HOME TIP

'If the cake mixture looks like it has curdled, beat in a tablespoon of the flour before continuing to add the eggs

Coconut, ginger and kaffir lime mussels

SERVES 4 READY IN 20 MINS, PLUS SCRUBBING

- 2tbsp groundnut oil
- 4 shallots, finely chopped
- 2 kaffir lime leaves, very finely sliced
- Thumb-sized piece ginger, peeled and sliced into fine matchsticks
- 2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 4 red chillies, deseeded and finely sliced
- 400ml tin coconut milk
- 2tbsp fish sauce
- Juice of 1 lime
- 2kg mussels, cleaned
- Thai basil or coriander, to serve

1 Heat the oil in a large wok or a large, wide pan with a lid. Fry the shallots over a medium heat for 2-3 mins, stirring often. Add the lime leaves, ginger, garlic and chilli and cook for a further minute or so. Pour in the coconut milk, fish sauce and lime juice and bring to a simmer.

2 Add the mussels, put on the lid and steam for 4 mins or so, until all the mussels are open (discard any that stay closed). Serve the mussels sprinkled with Thai basil leaves, with lime wedges and crusty bread on the side.

Chicken noodle soup with a ginger broth

SERVES 4 READY IN 40 MINS

- 1.4ltr good chicken stock, fresh if possible
- 6cm piece ginger, peeled and sliced into fine matchsticks
- 3 sticks lemongrass, trimmed and finely sliced
- 1 carrot, sliced into matchsticks or coins
- 1 red chilli, finely sliced
- 1tsp caster sugar
- 1tbsp soy sauce, plus extra to serve
- 2tsp oyster sauce
- 3 nests fine egg noodles
- 2 large, skinless, boneless chicken breasts, sliced into thin strips
- 1 lime, sliced into wedges, to serve
- Handful of fresh bean sprouts, to serve

1 In a large saucepan, simmer the stock, half the ginger and half the lemongrass for about 20 mins to infuse and concentrate the flavours.

2 Add the remaining ginger and lemongrass with the carrot and chilli and simmer for a further 5 mins. Add the sugar, soy sauce and oyster sauce. Add the noodles and simmer for 1 min, then add the chicken, reduce the heat and poach gently for 3 mins or so, until the noodles and chicken are cooked.

3 Ladle the soup into bowls. Serve with lime wedges, bean sprouts and extra soy sauce, to season to taste at the table.

Quince and ginger jam tarts

MAKES ABOUT 3 JARS OF JAM AND 8 TARTS READY IN 1 HR 30 MINS, PLUS STERILISING AND RESTING

FOR THE QUINCE JAM

- 5 large quinces, peeled, cored and roughly chopped
- 2 lemons, finely grated zest and juice
- 650g granulated sugar
- 30g peeled and finely shredded ginger

FOR THE TARTS

- 175g plain flour
- 1/4tsp fine salt
- 65g ground almonds
- 115g unsalted butter, chilled and cubed
- 80g caster sugar
- 2 egg yolks
- Finely grated zest of 1/2 lemon

1 To make the jam, simmer all the ingredients plus 350ml water, stirring often, until the quinces are soft and the jam is thick and orange-pink (about 40 mins). Spoon into hot, sterilised jars, screw on the lids and leave to cool.

2 To make the tarts, pulse all the ingredients together in a food processor until just combined into a dough. Form into a fat cylinder and slice into eight thick rounds.

3 Press a round of dough into each of eight, 8cm tart tins and chill for 20 mins. Trim the pastry edges with a sharp knife to sit flush with the tins. Heat the oven to 190C/Gas 5 and slide in a baking sheet.

4 Blind bake the pastry, on the heated baking sheet, for 12 mins, until pale golden. Fill each tart with 1tbsp jam and return to the oven for about 7 mins. Remove from the oven, rest for 10 mins then gently release from the tins and cool on a wire rack.

Ginger and lemon drizzle cake

MAKES 1 LARGE LOAF CAKE READY IN 1 HR 15 MINS, PLUS COOLING

FOR THE CAKE

- 225g butter, very soft
- 200g light muscovado sugar
- 4 eggs
- 170g self-raising flour
- Pinch of salt
- 1tsp ground ginger
- 30g ground almonds
- Finely grated zest of 10 large lemons
- 4 balls stem ginger, chopped
- 1tbsp syrup from stem ginger jar

FOR THE DRIZZLE

- 2tbsp syrup from the stem ginger jar
- Juice of 10 large lemons
- 75g golden caster sugar
- 2 balls stem ginger, finely slivered

1 Heat the oven to 180C/Gas 4. Line a large loaf tin with greaseproof paper. Beat the butter and sugar together until pale and creamy. Beat while adding the eggs one at a time.

2 Sift in the flour, along with the salt, ground ginger, almonds, lemon zest, stem ginger and syrup. Fold until well combined, then spoon into the tin and level the top. Bake for 45-50 mins, until golden and springy to the touch. A skewer inserted into the centre of the cake should come out clean.

3 Meanwhile, to make the drizzle combine the syrup, lemon juice and sugar. Prick the just-baked cake all over with a skewer, spread the stem ginger slivers over the top then pour over the drizzle. Leave the cake to cool in the tin before turning out. Keep in an airtight container for 3-4 days, or freeze, well wrapped, for up to 1 month.

COMPILED BY SAMUEL GOLDSMITH **RECIPES AND PHOTOGRAPHS** FUTURECONTENTHUB.COM

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tidy house tidy mind

PROFESSIONAL ORGANISER VICKY SILVERTHORN SORTS THE LINEN CUPBOARD...

HAVE A CLEAR-OUT Start by getting rid of old or mismatched sheets and pillowcases and worn towels, to free up space. Donate any good items and relegate shabby towels to dog-drying duties.

CREATE A SYSTEM How you organise bedlinen depends on how much you have. If there are just a few sets, then fold and place matching sets together on shelves so you can simply grab the bundle when you're changing a bed. If you have lots of linens, it's easier to organise them in categories, with sheets and duvet covers grouped in their different sizes.

MAKE IT EASY-ACCESS Store the most-used items on the middle shelves. Avoid high stacks that will topple every time you take something from the middle or bottom. Store spare pillowcases, guest bedlinen and blankets higher up and put less-often used beach towels and bath mats at the bottom.

ADD LABELS Once you've sorted everything into categories, use a labelling system so you can find what you're after at a glance, both when taking things out and putting them away. Use a label maker, tied-on tags or tape. Label the shelves with individual items, such as duvet covers, fitted sheets, bath towels and hand towels. Mark the sizes, too – try colour-coded dots or write S, D, K, SK using coloured pens.

AIR YOUR LINENS Slatted shelves are great for storing linens – the gaps let the air circulate to keep everything fresh. Avoid stashing things in baskets just for the sake of it – if you can't see it, you may forget it's there. If you'd like to have baskets, arrange them neatly and label them clearly for ease of use.

FOLD IT Fold bedlinen and towels rather than rolling – folding is easier and rolling only causes more creases. Storing everything folded looks uniform and neat. I have a video on my Instagram @youneedavicky showing how to fold sheets properly or there are several on YouTube.

EASY GRAB BASKET
Felicia jute laundry basket, £60, La Redoute

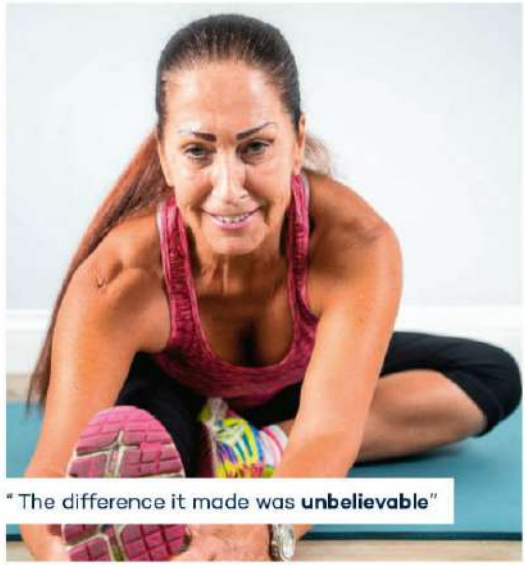
LABEL LINENS
Dymo embossing label maker, £19.99; label maker tape, £11.99 for three reels, both Lakeland

STASH SPARE SETS
Hatherop under bed storage bag, £30, Garden Trading

FEATURE LISA FAZZANI **PHOTOGRAPH** FUTURECONTENTHUB.COM
FIND OUT MORE AT YOUNEEDAVICKY.COM

Sylvia gets active again with **TURMERIC+**

Turmeric, the popular household spice, has gained quite a following in recent years. You might be wondering what all the fuss is about but more and more people are incorporating turmeric into their daily routine after trying it for themselves.



FutureYou Cambridge has received praise for their Turmeric+ supplement thanks to a special formulation that allows more of the active ingredient to get where it is needed.

Sylvia Pilgrim from Manchester is one of the long-term subscribers. Now in her sixties, Sylvia has always liked to keep fit.

'I am retired now, but even when I was working I always liked to stay fit. Unfortunately, I began to slow down due to wear and tear,' she says.

'I had seen the advertisements for Turmeric+ but thought it was just another fad, then I thought I had nothing to lose by trying it. The difference it made was unbelievable. I was able to work-out and can now continue with my fitness regime.'

Turmeric contains compounds called curcuminoids, the most notable of which is curcumin. Not only is curcumin responsible for turmeric's distinctive yellow colour but it's also what makes it such a powerful spice.

However, curcumin is difficult for the body to absorb so following extensive analysis the scientists at FutureYou Cambridge chose to use a patented 'Curcuma Phospholipid Complex' formulation, rather than black pepper, to make Turmeric+ thirty times more absorbable than standard turmeric. They also added vitamin C, which contributes to normal collagen formation for the normal function of cartilage.

Sylvia continues, 'I've been taking it for a couple of years now. My husband suggested I came off it as I was feeling so much more like my normal self – I told him I'd rather give him up than my turmeric tablets!

'The strangest thing was, I happened to mention Turmeric+ to my doctor, when I went to the hospital for an unrelated issue. I couldn't believe it when he said that he was taking it too!'

Adam Cleevely, CEO of FutureYou Cambridge comments: 'We want to support more people to get and stay active. We think Turmeric+ can play an important role in that journey, just like it has for Sylvia and tens of thousands of happy Turmeric+ subscribers who regularly tell us their positive stories.'

FutureYou
CAMBRIDGE

Why not try a **FREE** subscription trial?

CLAIM YOUR FREE TURMERIC+ SUBSCRIPTION TODAY JUST PAY £1.50 POSTAGE*

FutureYou Cambridge is offering new customers the chance to try its flagship product, Turmeric+, for just the cost of the £1.50 postage.*

Turmeric+ was formulated by FutureYou Cambridge, well-known for its science-backed health supplements.

The company, based in Cambridge, regularly consults with highly-regarded scientific and nutritional experts and has also developed close ties with world-leading educational institutions.

Since launching the product the company has continually received positive feedback from happy customers, particularly on Trustpilot, the independent online review platform.

'The product appears to meet all its promises and the service levels from FutureYou Cambridge is first class,' said another.

'We're very happy to give people their first pack for free so they can experience it for themselves,' says Adam Cleevely, the company's CEO.

'It might sound bonkers but it really isn't. We're that confident in the effectiveness of our formulation.

'I can't think of a better way to convince people. If they like it, they will stick with it. Tens of thousands of customers already do.'

To claim your free 28 day Turmeric+ subscription trial pack worth £16.80, visit **FutureYouOffers.co.uk** or freephone **0800 808 5740** quoting code **TF964**

If it's not for you, simply cancel your subscription at any time, without obligation.

* Discount valid until 30th November 2021. New UK customers only. One free trial per household. Your first box is free (just pay £1.50 postage) and you will be enrolled into a flexible subscription costing £16.80 every 28 days. See FutureYouHealth.com for more information on our subscription service. You can cancel your subscription at any time, without obligation. Trial pack promotion cannot be used in conjunction with any other promotions. **Turmeric+ contains vitamin C which contributes to normal collagen formation for the normal function of cartilage and bones.** Turmeric+ should be consumed as part of a healthy balanced diet and lifestyle. If you are taking any prescribed medication or have any medical conditions always consult your doctor or pharmacist before taking vitamins or supplements.

Trustpilot

great escape

THE STAR, ALFRISTON, EAST SUSSEX

The Hotel Inspector has given this medieval building the Polizzi touch

Close to the historic town of Lewes, in the village of Alfriston in the South Downs National Park, The Star has been given an elegant and extensive overhaul by Olga Polizzi and her *Hotel Inspector* daughter, Alex.

The ancient parts of the existing Tudor structure have been restored, while the modern part, built in the 1960s, is now unrecognisable, with an internal courtyard, 30 larger individually designed bedrooms, pretty patterned wallpapers and stylish upholstery in contrasting prints.

The bar serves beer from the local brewer, while the restaurant seats 60 and offers simple dishes made with seasonal Sussex produce, given an Italian twist by Head Chef Tim Kensett of The River Cafe.

BOOK IT **From £190 a night, The Star, Alfriston, East Sussex, BN26 5TA, thepolizzicollection.com**

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Oporo cotton bedspread, £89, Made

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FINER DETAILS
Souk cushion, £35, Bombay Duck

ORNATE SHAPE
Ballygannon mirror, £450, Oka

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takes hours to heat up

Traditional water based in screed underfloor heating is slow to heat up and cool down because the heat emitting pipe is normally buried 6 to 8" below the surface of the floor - Taking hours to heat up and cool down, very slow to respond, very difficult to adjust.

Most traditional UFH is left on 24/7 to compensate.

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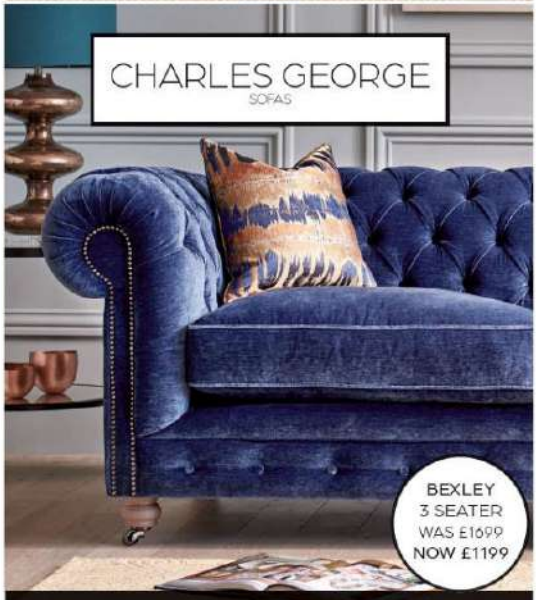

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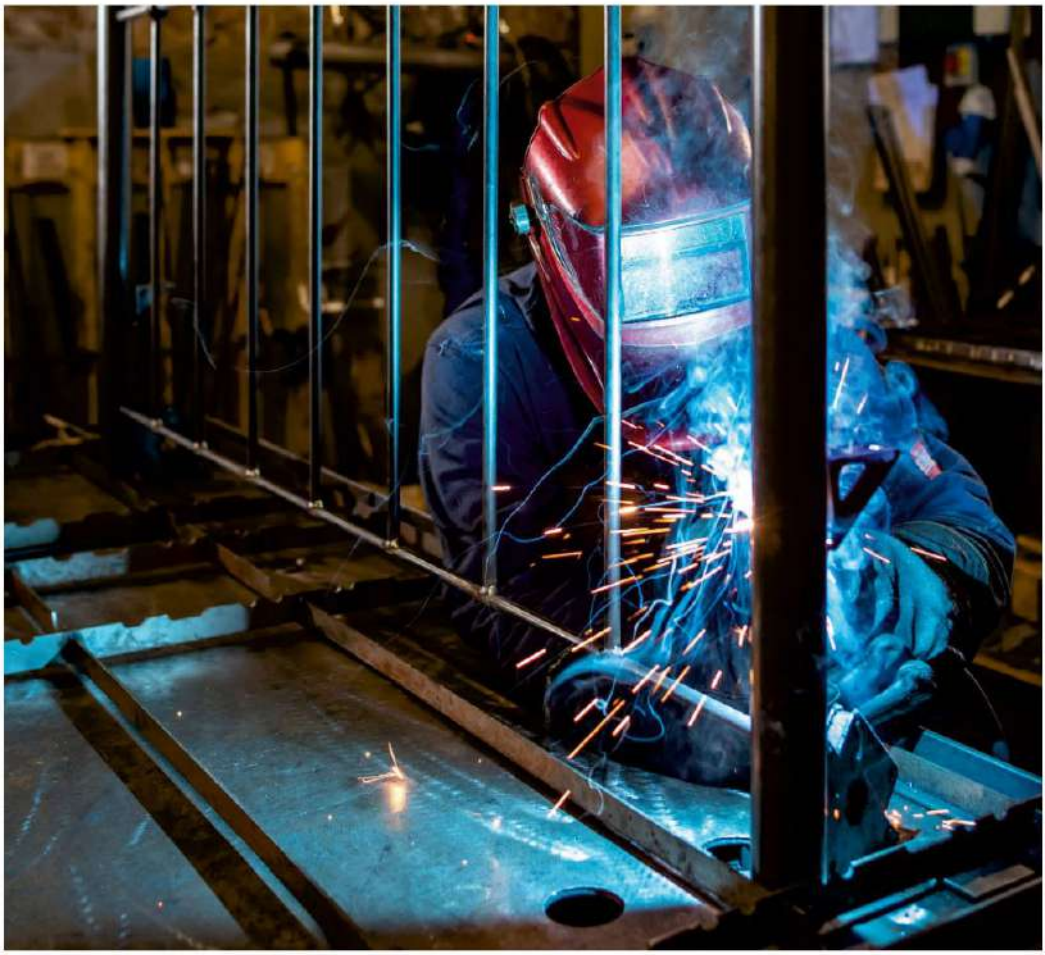

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hometruths

PALOMA FAITH GETS UP CLOSE & PERSONAL WITH HER HOME

Singer, songwriter and actress Paloma Faith lives in London with her partner Leyman Lahcine and their two children.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE TIME OF THE DAY AT HOME?

I love the morning – everyone leaves me alone and I can just cuddle my kids in bed and have breakfast with them and no-one is asking me any questions. If I've been with them all day, then my favourite time is at 7.30pm, when they're both in bed!

WHAT'S ON YOUR BEDSIDE TABLE?

Two books I'm dying to read, *Motherhood: A Manifesto* by Eliane Glaser and *Real Estate* by Deborah Levy. I've just given birth and something happens to your brain when you do – a combo of trauma and sleepless nights – that makes it hard to concentrate on a book... I'll get around to them soon!

ARE YOU A NEAT FREAK OR DO YOU PREFER CREATIVE CHAOS?

There's so much beauty in chaos. The Paloma home range embodies my chaotic maximalist taste, it's everything I like to be surrounded by. With a mum who loved the clean '60s minimalist aesthetic (all white and modern), my style is entirely the opposite, which I think is my decadent (and slightly cluttered) rebellion!

WHAT'S YOUR HOME ADDICTION?

Anything vintage or antiques. I'm totally addicted to antiques markets like Ardingly, and thrift stores when travelling around America, as well as eBay – I managed to do my house up entirely using second-hand pieces. I'm a sucker for a bargain. I often impulsively buy things without there being an obvious space for them within my home, however I always seem to make them work!

IS YOUR HOME COLOURFUL OR ALL ABOUT NEUTRAL SHADES?

Colour, colour, colour! I dress a room as I dress myself. I often start with one thing, with any outfit you might start with a pair of shoes, with a room you could use a chair or cushion. A fearlessness of colour is important. Growing up we didn't always have a lot of money, but my mum did always prioritise new cushion covers – and things felt brand new.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE CHORE?

I absolutely love to cook for my friends and family – I just wish I had more time to do so.

WHAT DO YOU MISS MOST ABOUT YOUR HOME WHEN YOU'RE AWAY?

My family! Work means I'm often away travelling either touring or filming, so anytime I spend with my kids and partner at home is so special.

IN THE HOT SEAT

Shoes – On or off? On.

Eat – table or on laps? Table with the kids.

Lighting – bright or moody? Moodily lit.

Quick shower or long bath? Long bath – if I have the time.

Room decor – colourful or neutral? Colourful of course!

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